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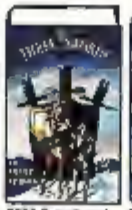

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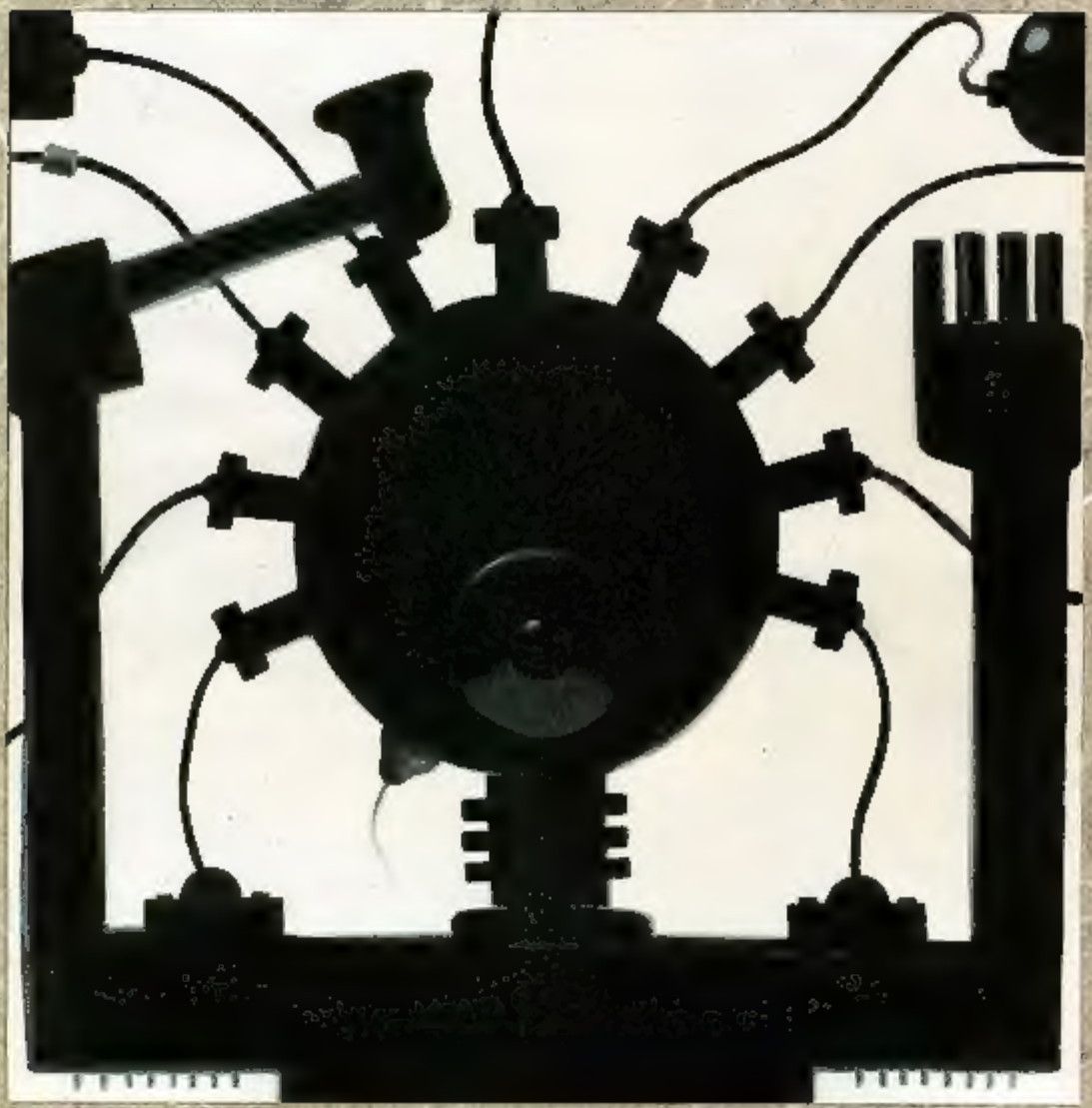
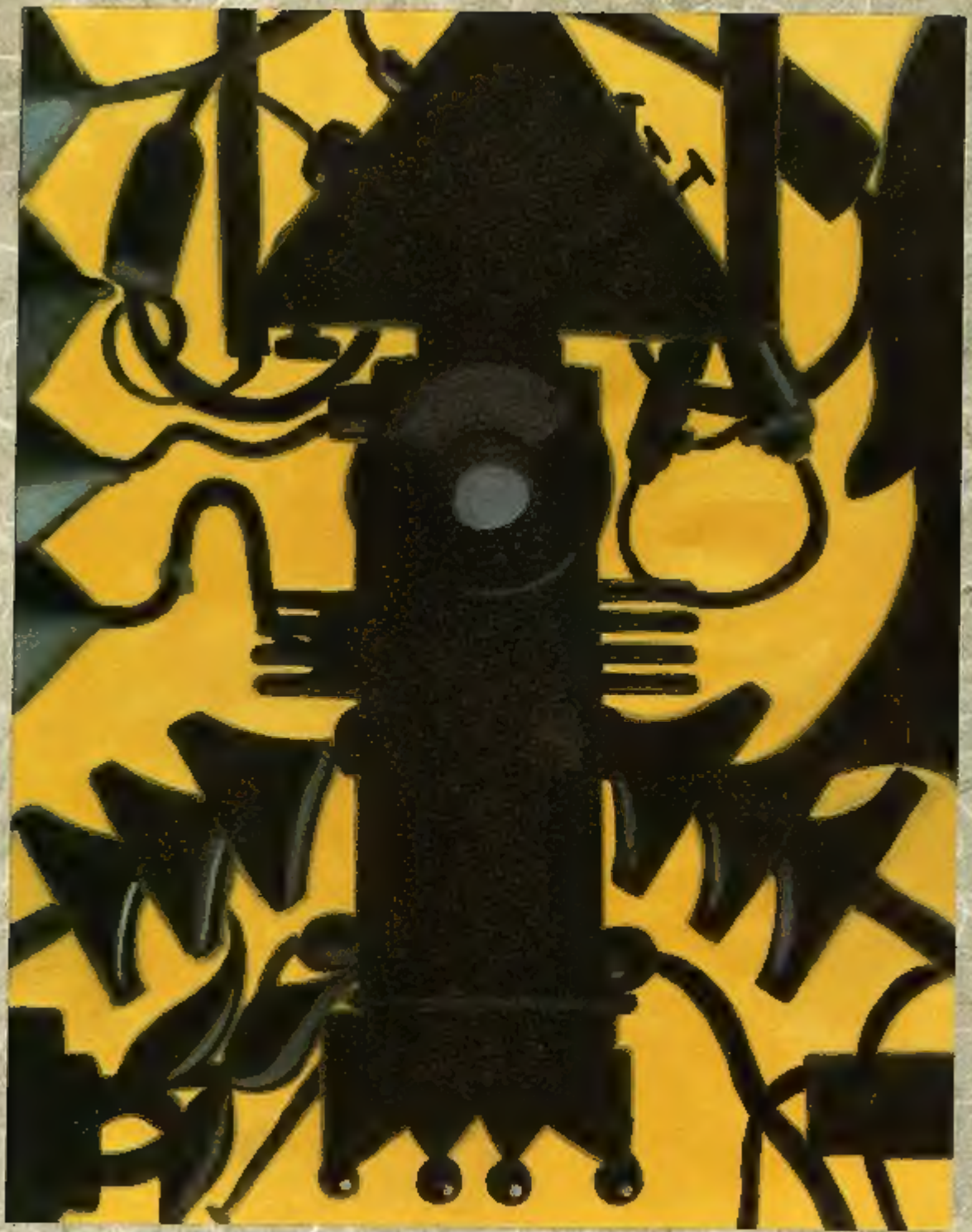
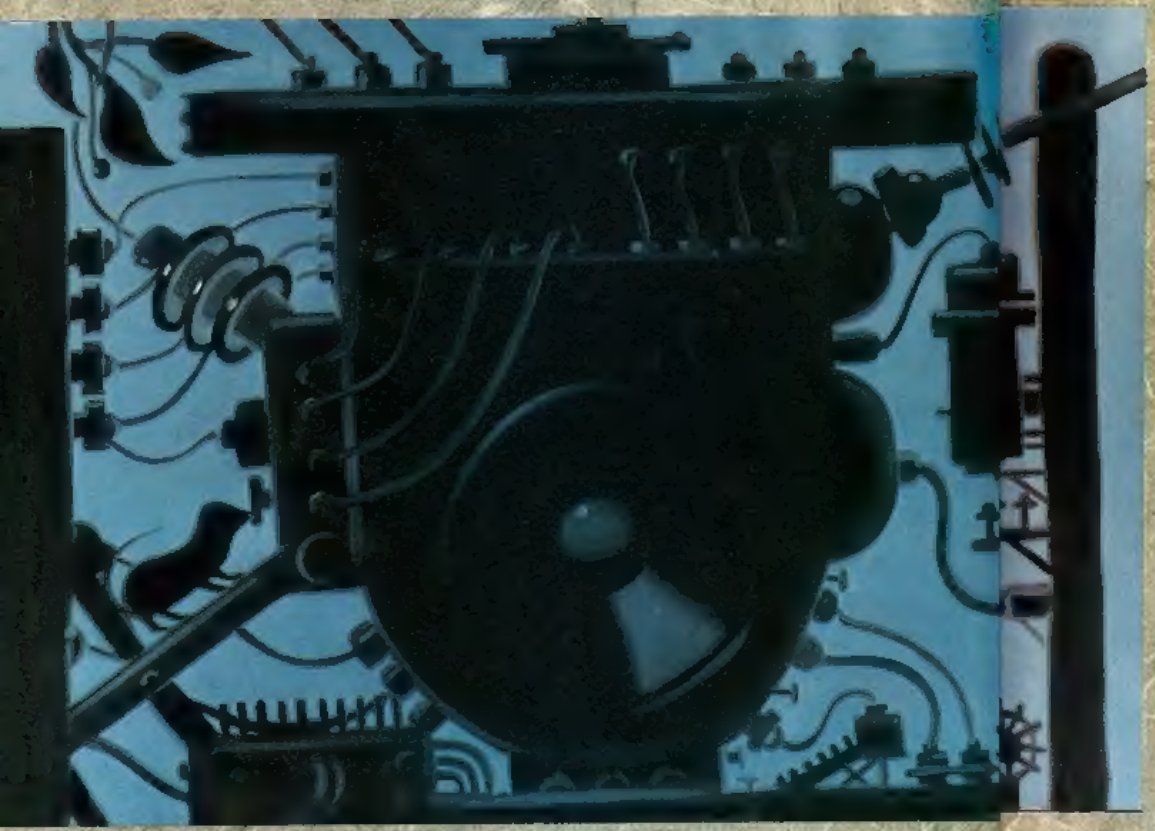


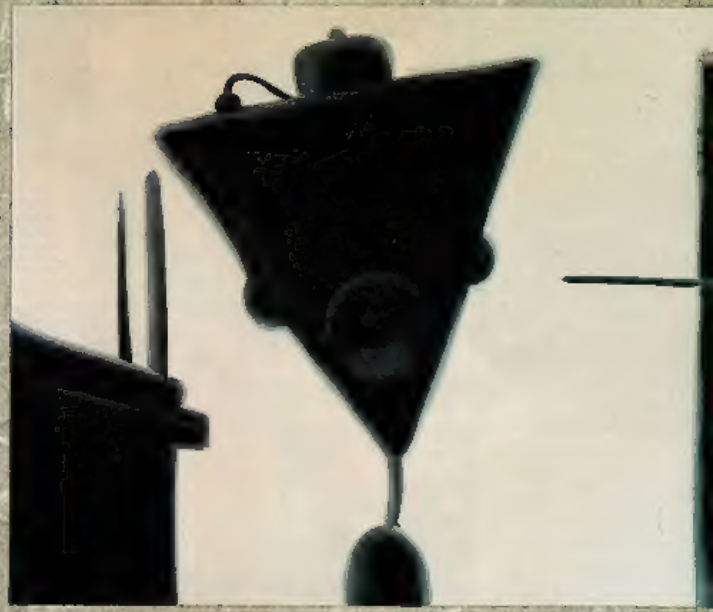


"The older you get,
the less important everything is.
This is important."



"My work is meaningless."

"More sexual than intellectual."



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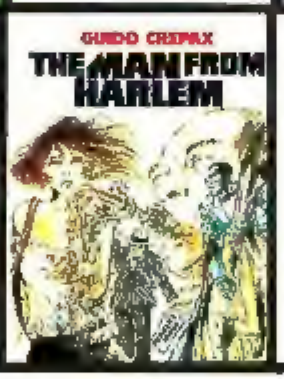

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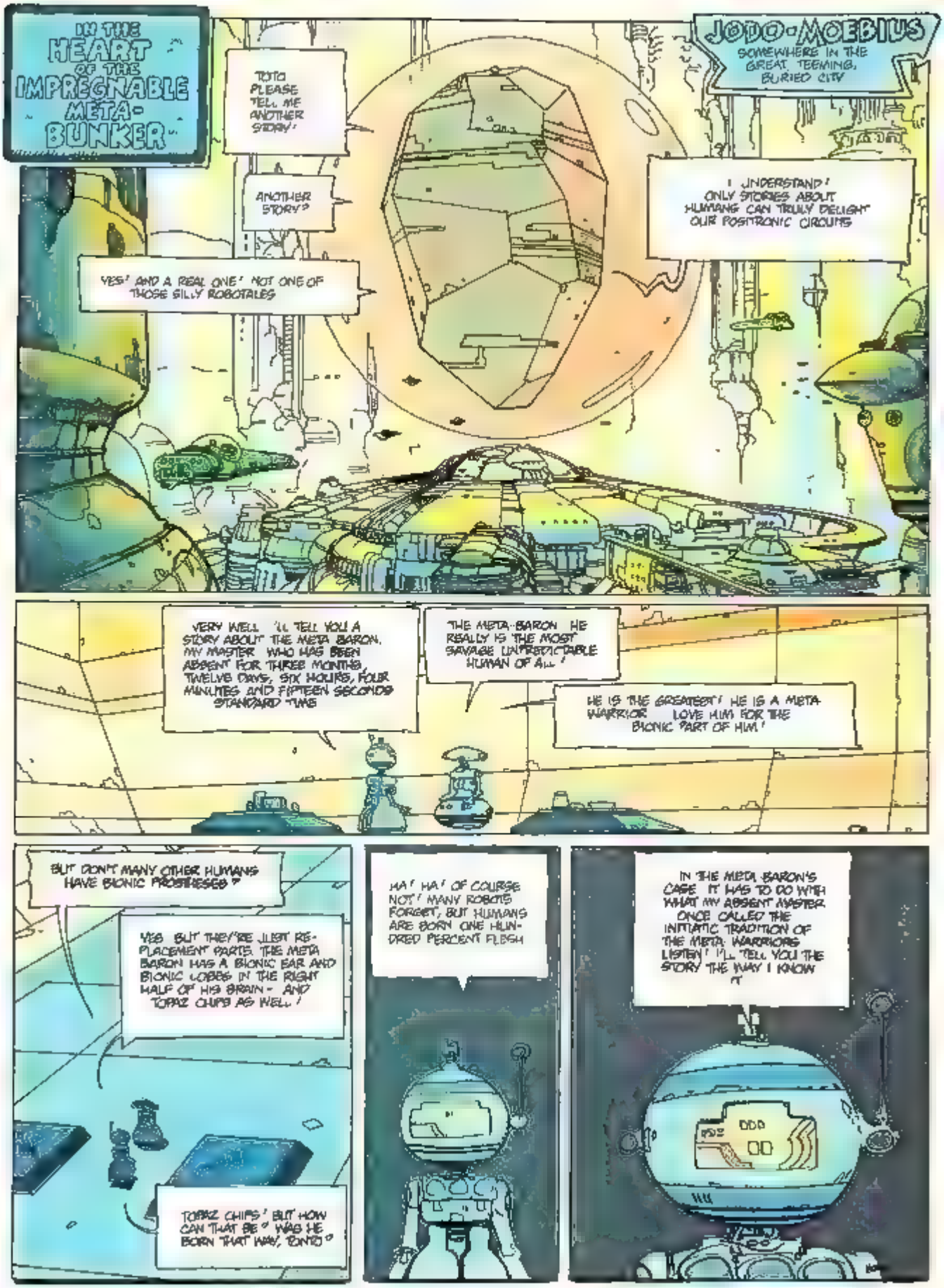
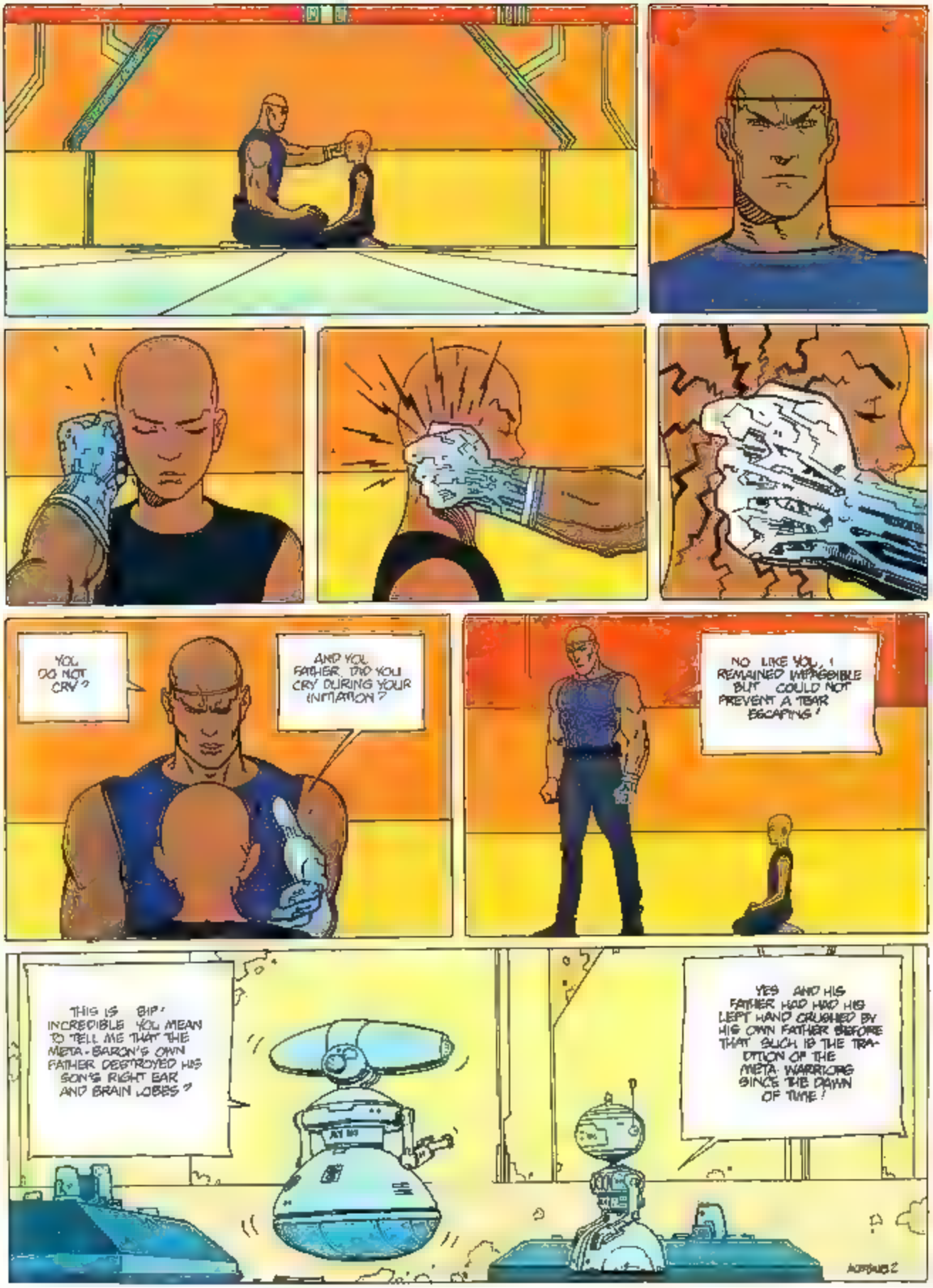
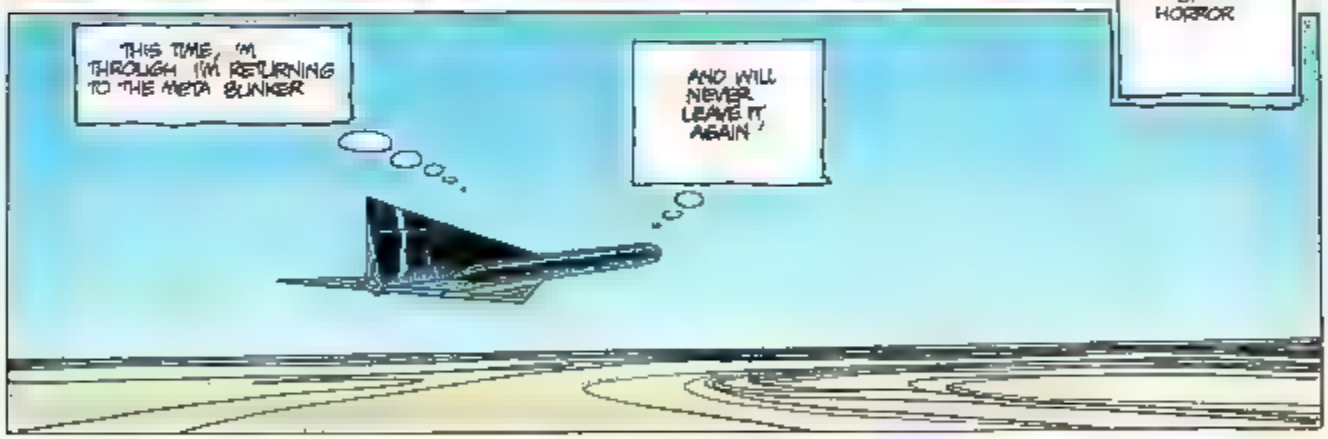
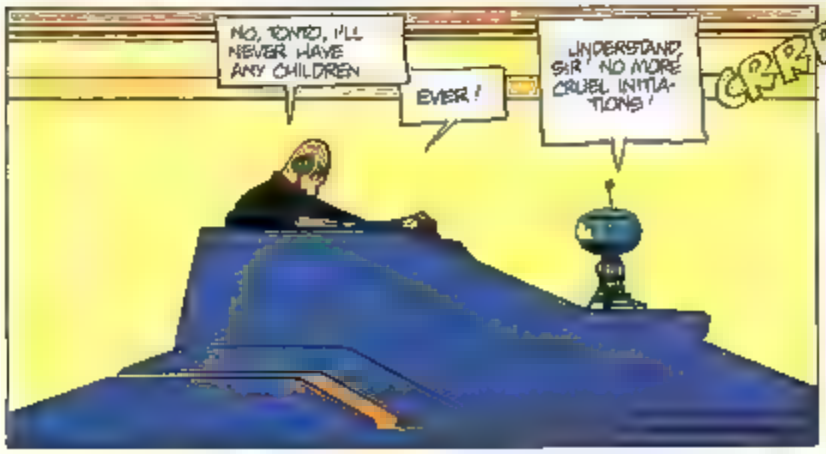

IN THE HEART OF THE IMPREGNABLE META-BUNKER
JODO-MOEBIUS
SOMEWHERE IN THE GREAT, TEEMING, BURIED CITY
TOTO PLEASE TELL ME ANOTHER STORY!
ANOTHER STORY?
YES! AND A REAL ONE! NOT ONE OF THOSE SILLY ROBOTALES
I UNDERSTAND! ONLY STORIES ABOUT HUMANS CAN TRULY DELIGHT OUR POSITRONIC CIRCUITS
VERY WELL 'LL TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT THE META BARON, MY MASTER WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR THREE MONTHS, TWELVE DAYS, SIX HOURS, FOUR MINUTES AND FIFTEEN SECONDS STANDARD TIME
THE META-BARON HE REALLY IS THE MOST SAVAGE UNPREDICTABLE HUMAN OF ALL!
HE IS THE GREATEST! HE IS A META WARRIOR LOVE HIM FOR THE BIONIC PART OF HIM!
BUT DON'T MANY OTHER HUMANS HAVE BIONIC PROSTHESES?
YES BUT THEY'RE JUST RE-PLACEMENT PARTS. THE META BARON HAS A BIONIC EAR AND BIONIC LOBES IN THE RIGHT HALF OF HIS BRAIN - AND TOPAZ CHIPS AS WELL!
TOPAZ CHIPS! BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? WAS HE BORN THAT WAY, TONTO?
HA! HA! OF COURSE NOT! MANY ROBOTS FORGET, BUT HUMANS ARE BORN ONE HUN-DRED PERCENT FLESH
IN THE META BARON'S CASE IT HAS TO DO WITH WHAT MY ABSENT MASTER ONCE CALLED THE INITIATIC TRADITION OF THE META WARRIORS LISTEN! I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY THE WAY I KNOW IT

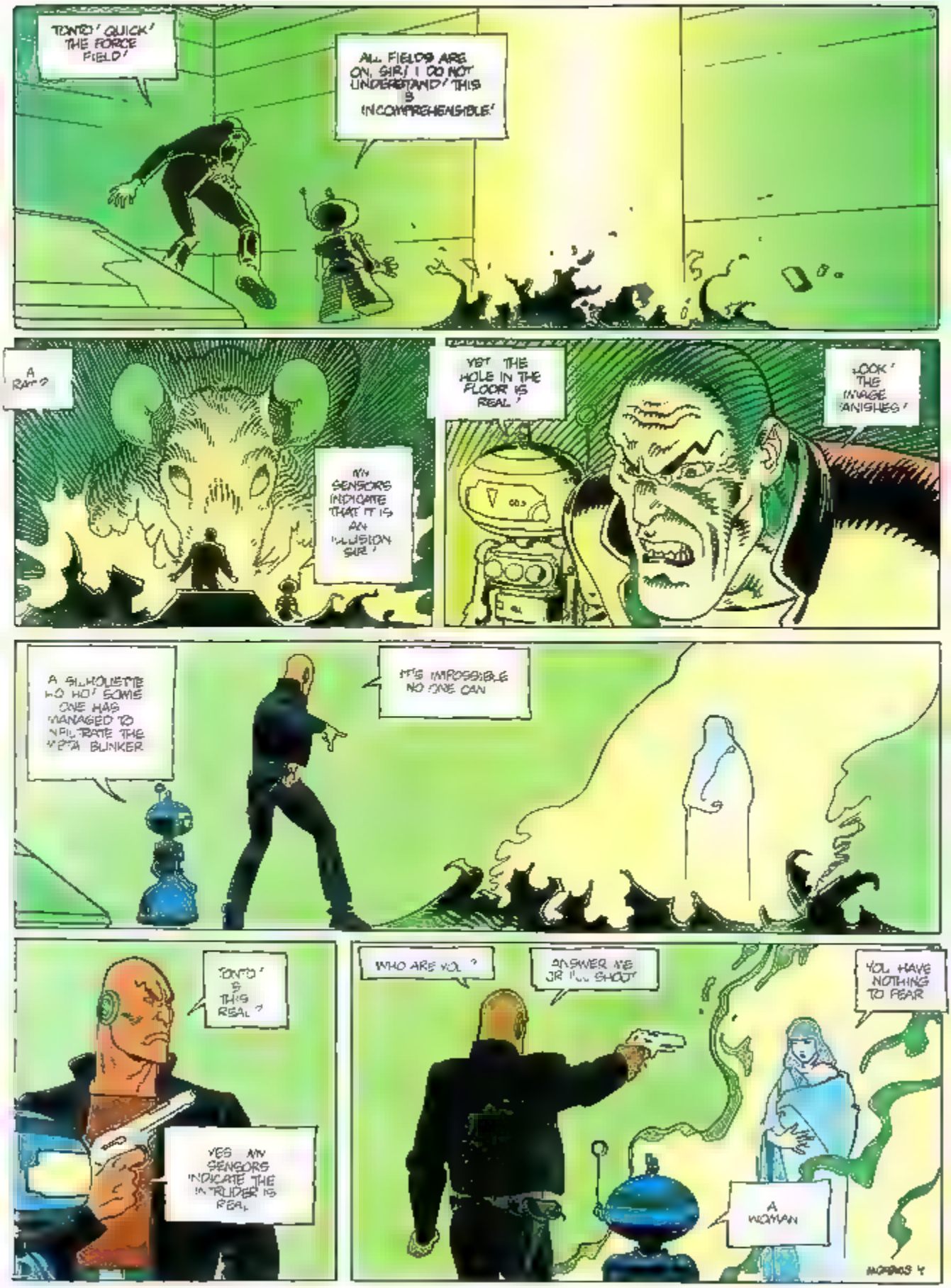

YOU DO NOT CRY?
AND YOU FATHER, DID YOU CRY DURING YOUR INITIATION?
NO. LIKE YOU, I REMAINED IMPASSIBLE BUT COULD NOT PREVENT A TEAR ESCAPING!
THIS IS BIP! INCREDIBLE YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THE META-BARON'S OWN FATHER DESTROYED HIS SON'S RIGHT EAR AND BRAIN LOBES?
YES AND HIS FATHER HAD HAD HIS LEFT HAND CRUSHED BY HIS OWN FATHER BEFORE THAT SUCH IS THE TRADITION OF THE META-WARRIORS SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!

I DON'T LIKE THIS STORY, TONTO! I WONDER IF WOULDN'T PREFER A ROBOTALE AFTER ALL
WAIT! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! IT GETS BETTER!
HOPE SO ALMOST FUSED A CIRCUIT!
I'M BORED WITH THIS SLAUGHTER
HE NO LONGER HAD ANY OPPONENT WORTHY OF HIM
IT HAS BECOME TOO EASY
IT WAS JUST AFTER THE POSTVANDAL AFFAIR ON THE WESTERN CONTINENT
HIS ONLY CONTACT WITH OTHER HUMANS WAS A WALL OF AGONY AND SCREAMS OF HORROR



DAYS PASSED IN THE SILENT LONLINESS OF THE IMPREGNABLE META-BUNKER, WHEN SUDDENLY

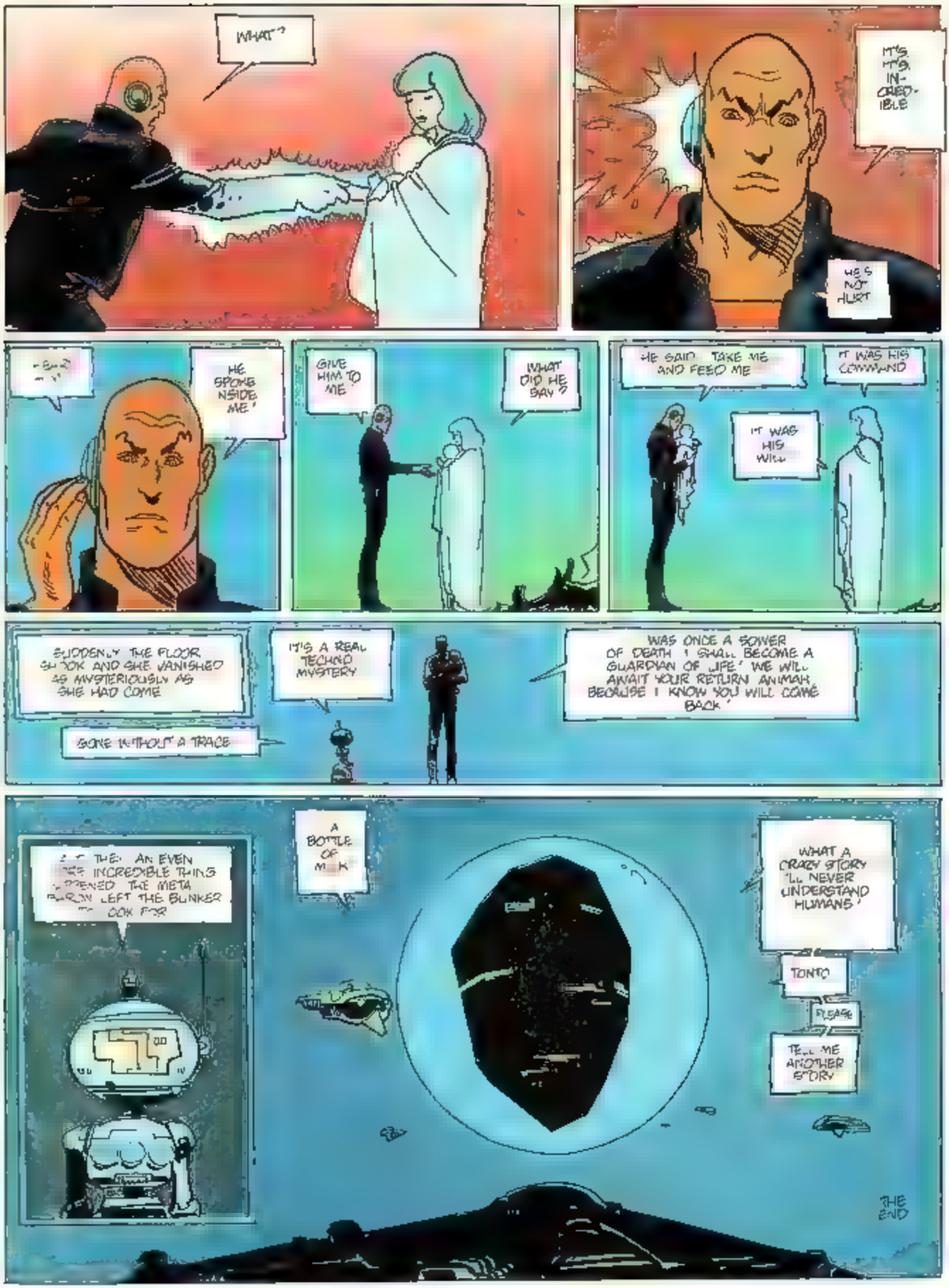



TONTO! QUICK! THE FORCE FIELD!
ALL FIELDS ARE ON, SIR! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! THIS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE!
A RAT?
MY SENSORS INDICATE THAT IT IS AN ILLUSION SIR!
YET THE HOLE IN THE FLOOR IS REAL!
LOOK! THE IMAGE VANISHES!
A SILHOUETTE HO HO! SOME ONE HAS MANAGED TO INFILTRATE THE YETA BUNKER
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NO ONE CAN
TONTO! IS THIS REAL?
YES MY SENSORS INDICATE THE INTRUDER IS REAL
WHO ARE YOU?
ANSWER ME OR I'LL SHOOT
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR
A WOMAN
MORROS 4

A WO MAN
NEVER HAD I SEEN SUCH AN EXPRESSION ON THE META-BARON'S FACE.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I AM ANIMAH
YES, ANIMAH ! HAVE HEARD YOUR NAME BEFORE
SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE I HAVE KNOWN YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME
STAY HERE ! DON'T ABANDON ME AGAIN !
MY PLACE IS NOT HERE !
I'M POWERFUL, VERY POWERFUL ! I CAN TAKE THIS CITY AND GIVE IT TO YOU. I CAN MAKE YOU QUEEN !
ORDER AND I'LL OBEY YOU !
THEN I'LL ORDER YOU TO TAKE THIS CHILD AND BE HIS PROTECTOR HIS TEACHER AND HIS FATHER !
?!
HIS NAME IS SUNMOON AND HIS HEART IS THAT OF A PERFECT ANDROGYNE. YOU MUST TEACH HIM TO BECOME A META-WARRIOR !
YOU ASK ME TO BE HIS FATHER ?
NEVER !
YOU SAID "ORDER AND I'LL OBEY YOU !!" I HAVE DONE SO !

NO!
?!
CAN'T!
BUT YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE POWERFUL
I CAN'T
BUT CANNOT
THE META-BARON WAS UNRECOGNIZABLE HE A MERCILESS KILLER WAS SUDDENLY LIKE A TIMID, YOUNG KNIGHT, PINING FOR HIS BELOVED PRINCESS
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
WHY, META BARON? WHY?
ANIMAH, YOU DO NOT REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME LISTEN AND I'LL TELL YOU / THE DAY OF MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY MY FATHER ASKED ME TO COME HERE, IN THIS VERY BUNKER, DRESSED IN FULL BATTLE ARMOR IT WAS TO BE THE FINAL TEST IN INITIATION
MY SON THIS IS THE ULTIMATE TEST WHICH WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE A META WARRIOR!
IT IS A SIMPLE TEST
WE WILL FIGHT EITHER YOU WILL KILL ME OR WILL KILL YOU!
BUT FATHER

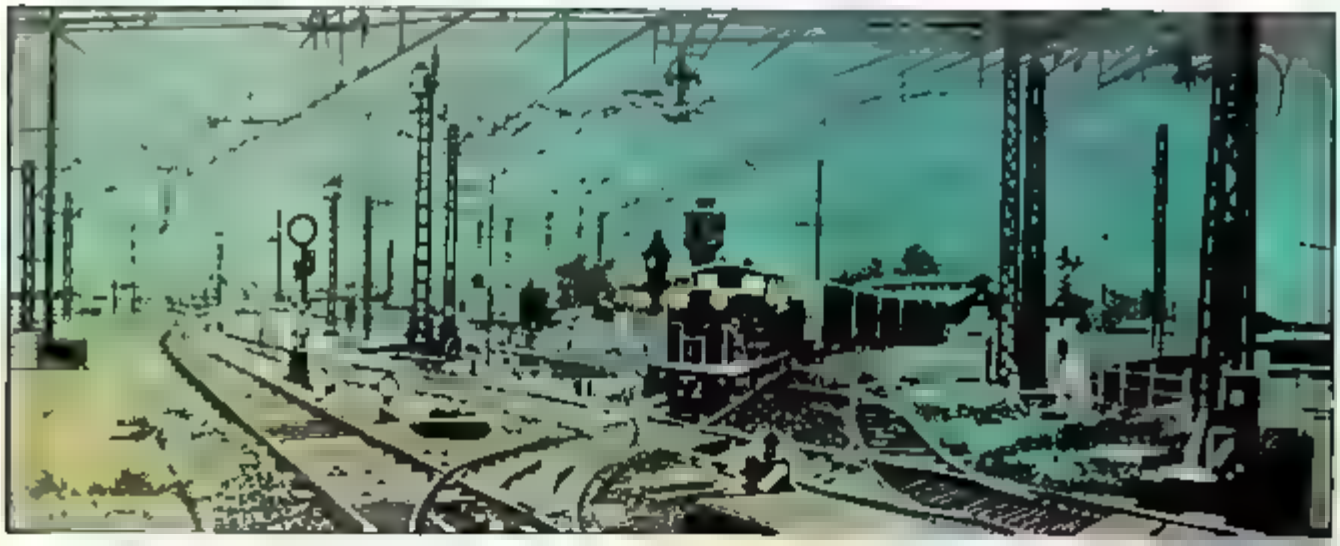
I'LL COUNT TO THREE BEFORE STRIKING THE FIRST BLOW
TWO
FATHER NO
ONE
THREE
THE BATTLE LASTED FOR TWO DAYS, UNTIL...
HIS LANCE
PIERCED...
HIS HEART!
NOW ANUMAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR CHARGE IT WOULD BE CONDEMNING THIS CHILD TO DEATH BECAUSE HE COULD NEVER DEFEAT ME!
YOU ARE WRONG, META BARON HE HAS ALREADY DEFEATED YOU
PULL OUT YOUR DAGGER!
LLIC
TRY TO KILL HIM NOW! STAB HIM IN THE HEART!
WHY NOT?
WITHOUT THE LEAST HESITATION, THE GREAT WARRIOR PLUNGED HIS WEAPON INTO THE CHILD'S BREAST!
DIE NOW THEN

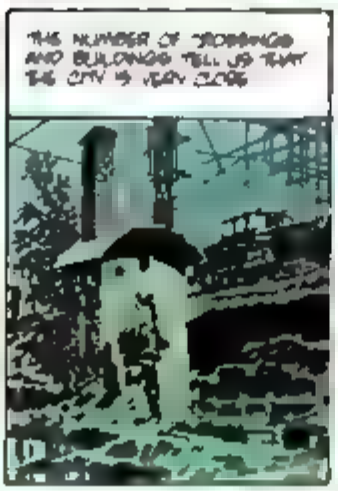

WHAT?
M'S M'S. IN-CRED-IBLE
HE'S NOT HURT
HE SPOKE INSIDE ME!
GIVE HIM TO ME
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID TAKE ME AND FEED ME
IT WAS HIS COMMAND
IT WAS HIS WILL
SUDDENLY THE FLOOR SHOOK AND SHE VANISHED AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS SHE HAD COME
GONE WITHOUT A TRACE
IT'S A REAL TECHNO MYSTERY
WAS ONCE A SOWER OF DEATH I SHALL BECOME A GUARDIAN OF LIFE' WE WILL AWAIT YOUR RETURN ANIMAH BECAUSE I KNOW YOU WILL COME BACK'
A BOTTLE OF M K
WHAT A CRAZY STORY I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HUMANS'
TONTO
PLEASE
TELL ME ANOTHER STORY
THE END

TAXI

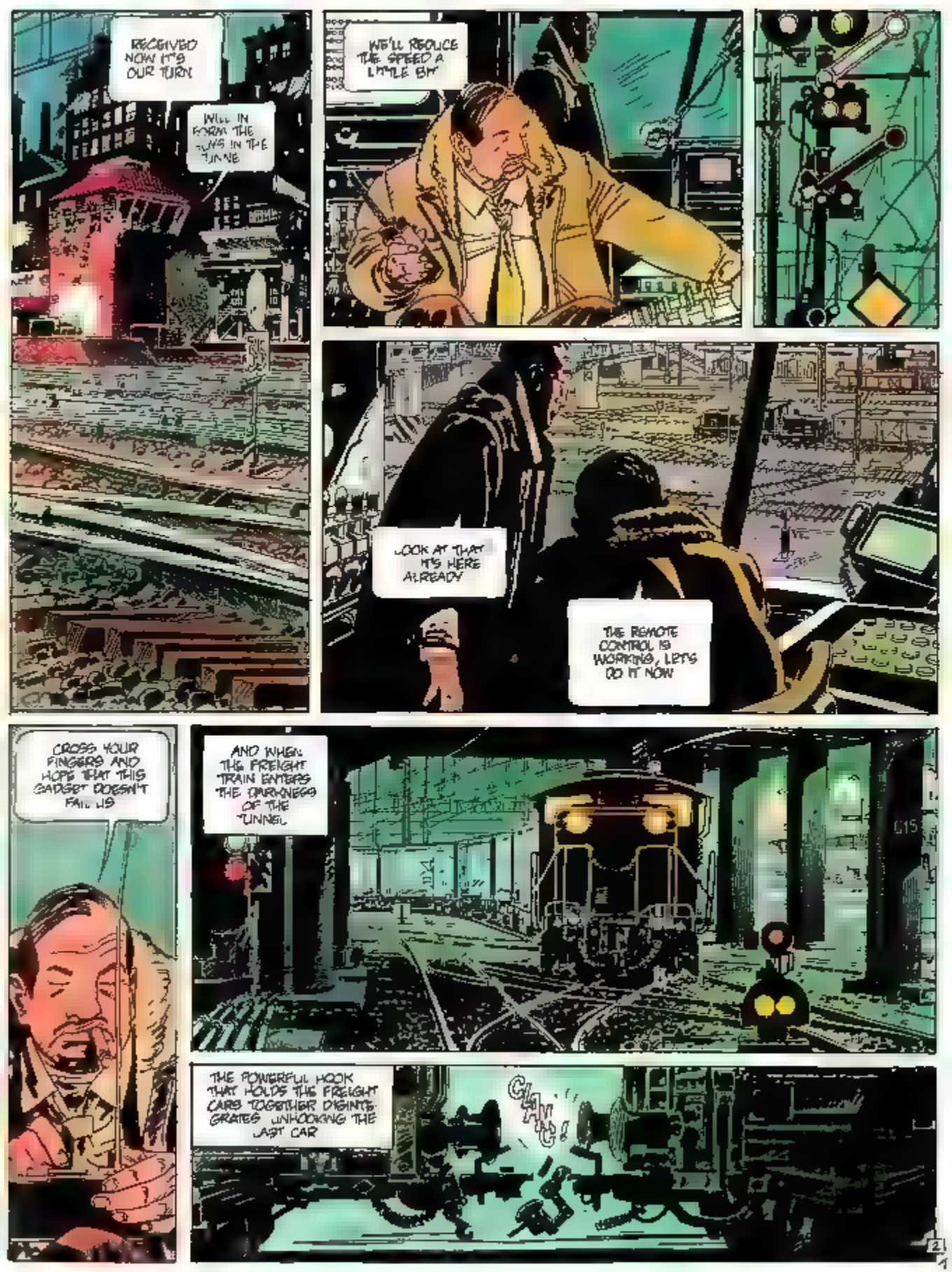
1. KILLER CARGO

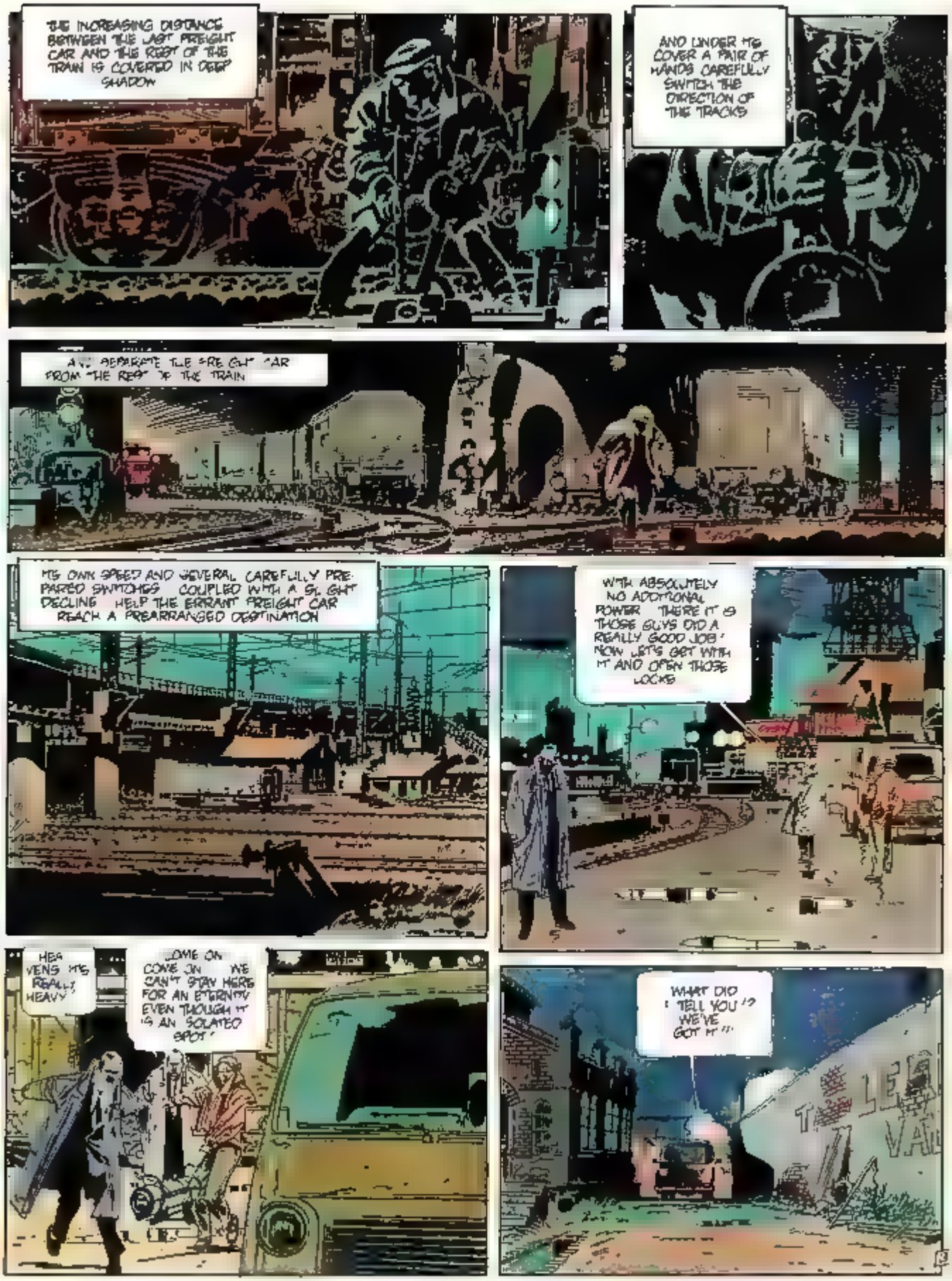
AS THE TRAIN WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH THE SWITCHING YARD, THE SPRINGS IN ITS WHEELS CREAK WITH THE SOUND OF RUSTY OLD IRON, MARKING THE NOISE OF THE EVENING

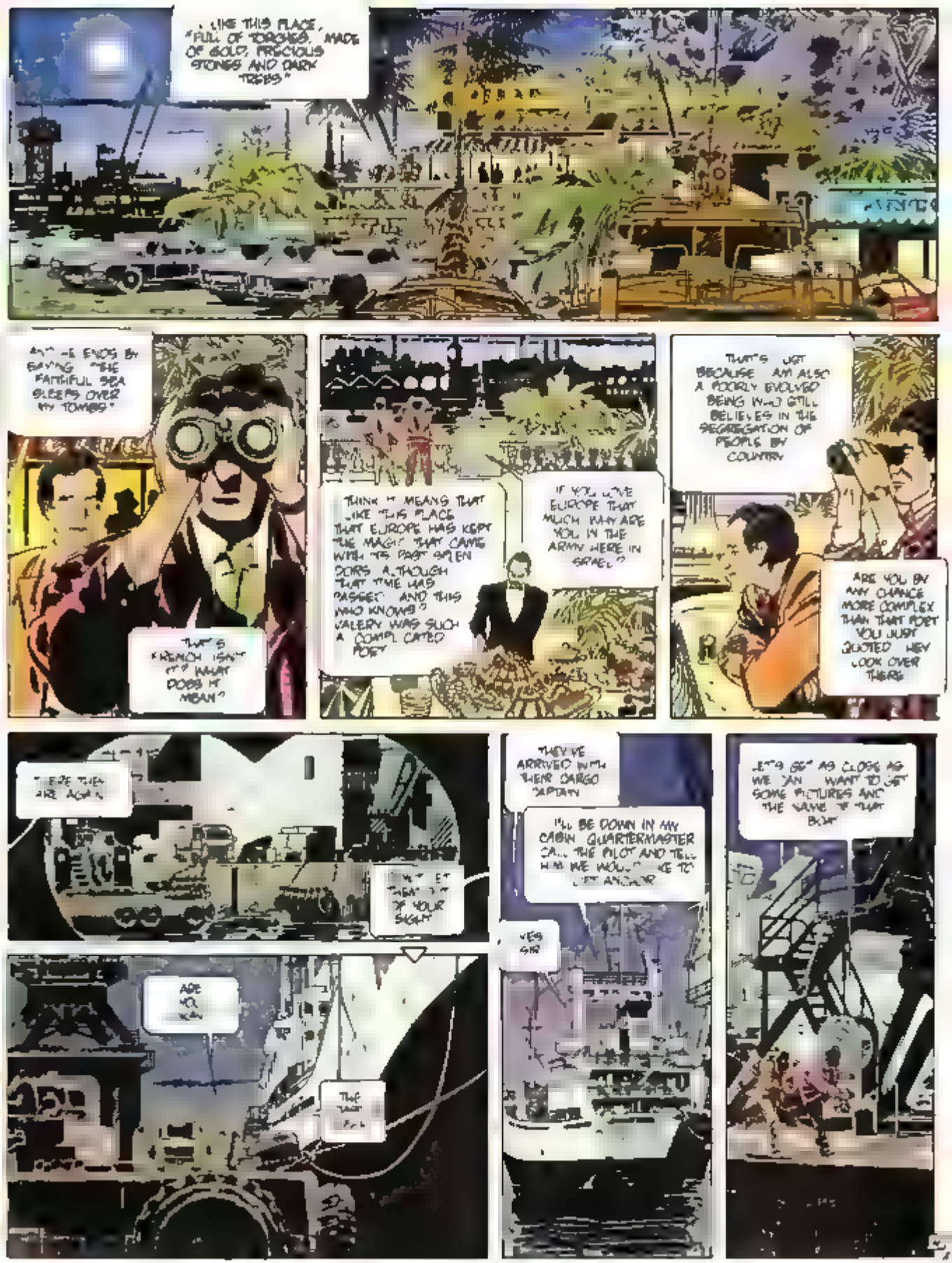




AND THAT THE FREIGHT TRA
AROUSING THE CURIOSITY OF
IT'S GOING TO BE THERE IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES REPEAT IT IS PASSING BY ME RIGHT NOW

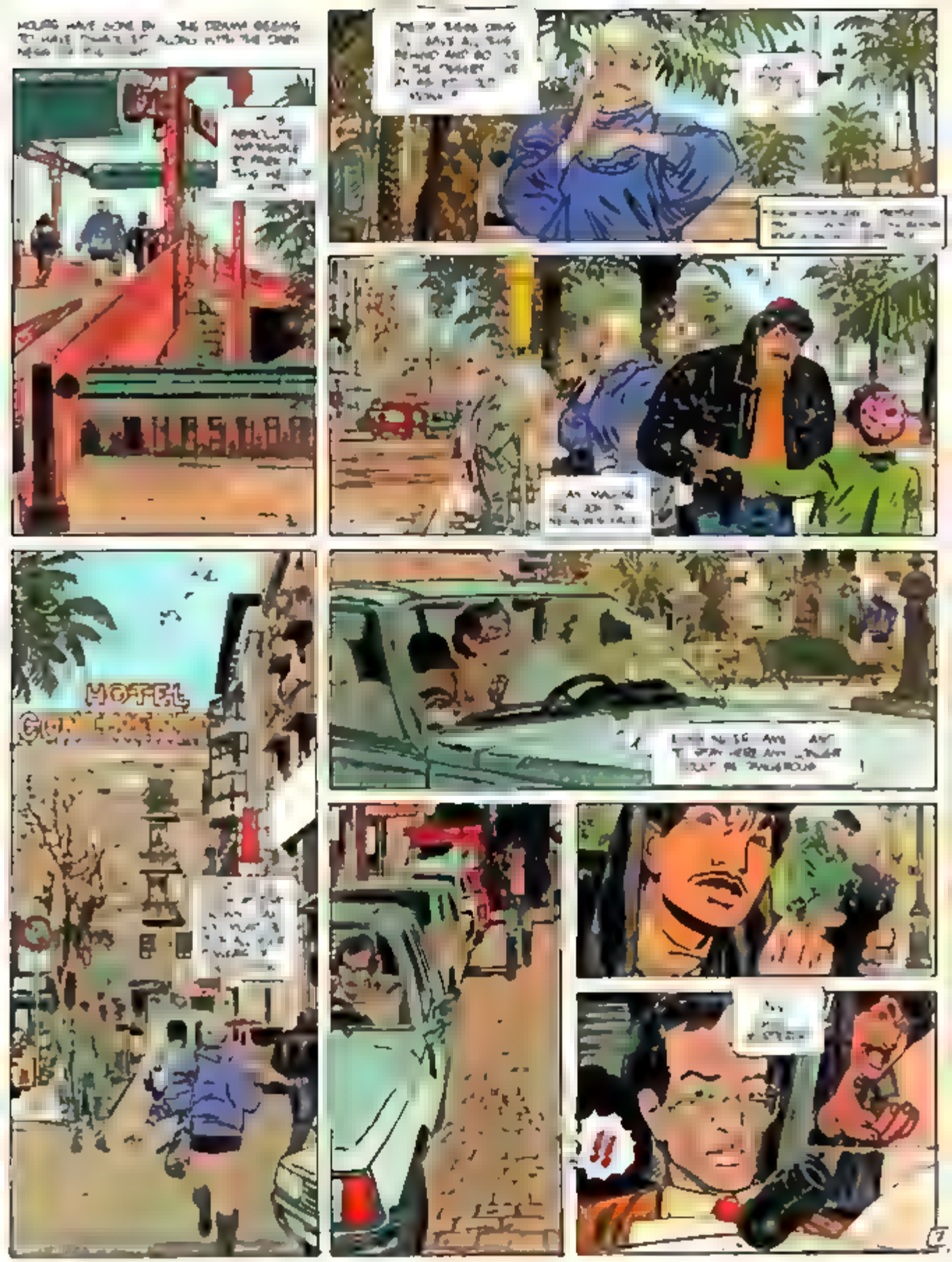

RECEIVED NOW IT'S OUR TURN
WILL IN FORM THE ...NS IN THE TUNNE
WE'LL REDUCE THE SPEED A LITTLE BIT
LOOK AT THAT IT'S HERE ALREADY
THE REMOTE CONTROL IS WORKING, LET'S DO IT NOW
CROSS YOUR FINGERS AND HOPE THAT THIS GADGET DOESN'T FAIL US
AND WHEN THE FREIGHT TRAIN ENTERS THE DARKNESS OF THE TUNNEL
G15
THE POWERFUL HOOK THAT HOLDS THE FREIGHT CARS TOGETHER DISINTE-GRATES UNHOOKING THE LAST CAR
CLANG!
2


THE INCREASING DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LAST FREIGHT CAR AND THE REST OF THE TRAIN IS COVERED IN DEEP SHADOW
AND UNDER HIS COVER A PAIR OF HANDS CAREFULLY SWITCH THE DIRECTION OF THE TRACKS
AND SEPARATE THE FREIGHT CAR FROM THE REST OF THE TRAIN
HIS OWN SPEED AND SEVERAL CAREFULLY PREPARED SWITCHES COUPLED WITH A SLIGHT DECLINE HELP THE ERRANT FREIGHT CAR REACH A PREARRANGED DESTINATION
WITH ABSOLUTELY NO ADDITIONAL POWER THERE IT IS THOSE GUYS DID A REALLY GOOD JOB! NOW LET'S GET WITH IT AND OPEN THOSE LOCKS
HEAVENS HE'S REALLY HEAVY
COME ON COME ON WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOR AN ETERNITY EVEN THOUGH IT IS AN ISOLATED SPOT!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU!? WE'VE GOT IT!!

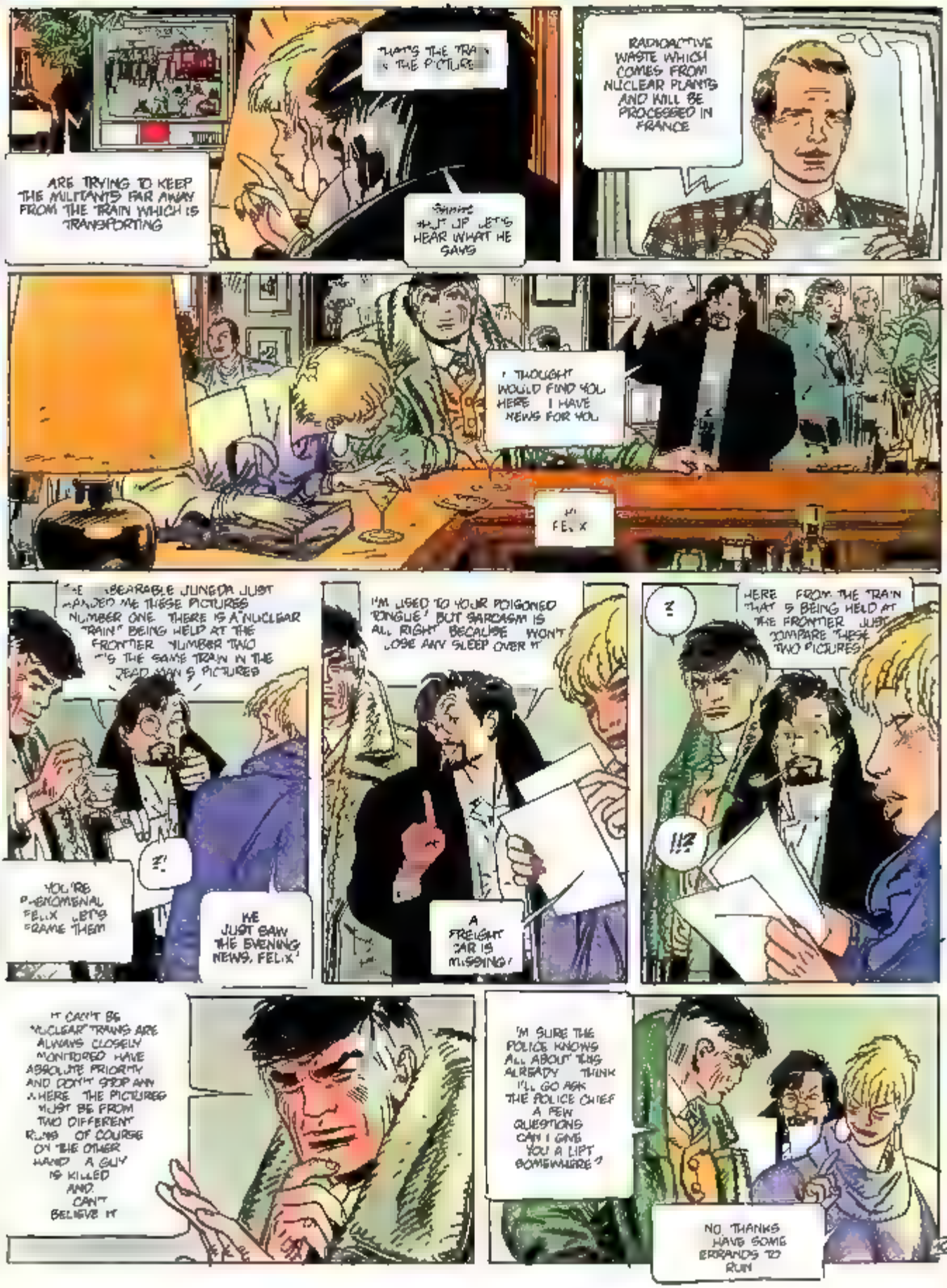

I LIKE THIS PLACE, "FULL OF TORCHES, MADE OF GOLD, PRECIOUS STONES AND DARK TREES."
AND HE ENDS BY SAYING "THE FAITHFUL SEA SLEEPS OVER MY TOMBS."
THAT'S FRENCH ISN'T IT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I THINK IT MEANS THAT LIKE THIS PLACE THAT EUROPE HAS KEPT THE MAGIC THAT CAME WITH ITS PAST OPEN DOORS ALTHOUGH THAT TIME HAS PASSED. AND THIS WHO KNOWS? VALERY WAS SUCH A COMPLICATED POET
IF YOU LOVE EUROPE THAT MUCH WHY ARE YOU IN THE ARMY HERE IN GREECE?
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE AM ALSO A POORLY EVOLVED BEING WHO STILL BELIEVES IN THE SEGREGATION OF PEOPLE BY COUNTRY
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT POET YOU JUST QUOTED HEY LOOK OVER THERE
THERE THEY ARE AGAIN
THEY'VE ARRIVED IN THEIR CARGO CAPTAIN
I'LL BE DOWN IN MY CABIN QUARTERMASTER CA... THE PILOT AND TELL HIM WE WOU... LIKE TO LIFT ANCHOR
YES SIR
LET'S GET AS CLOSE AS WE CAN I WANT TO GET SOME PICTURES AND THE VALVE OF THAT BOAT

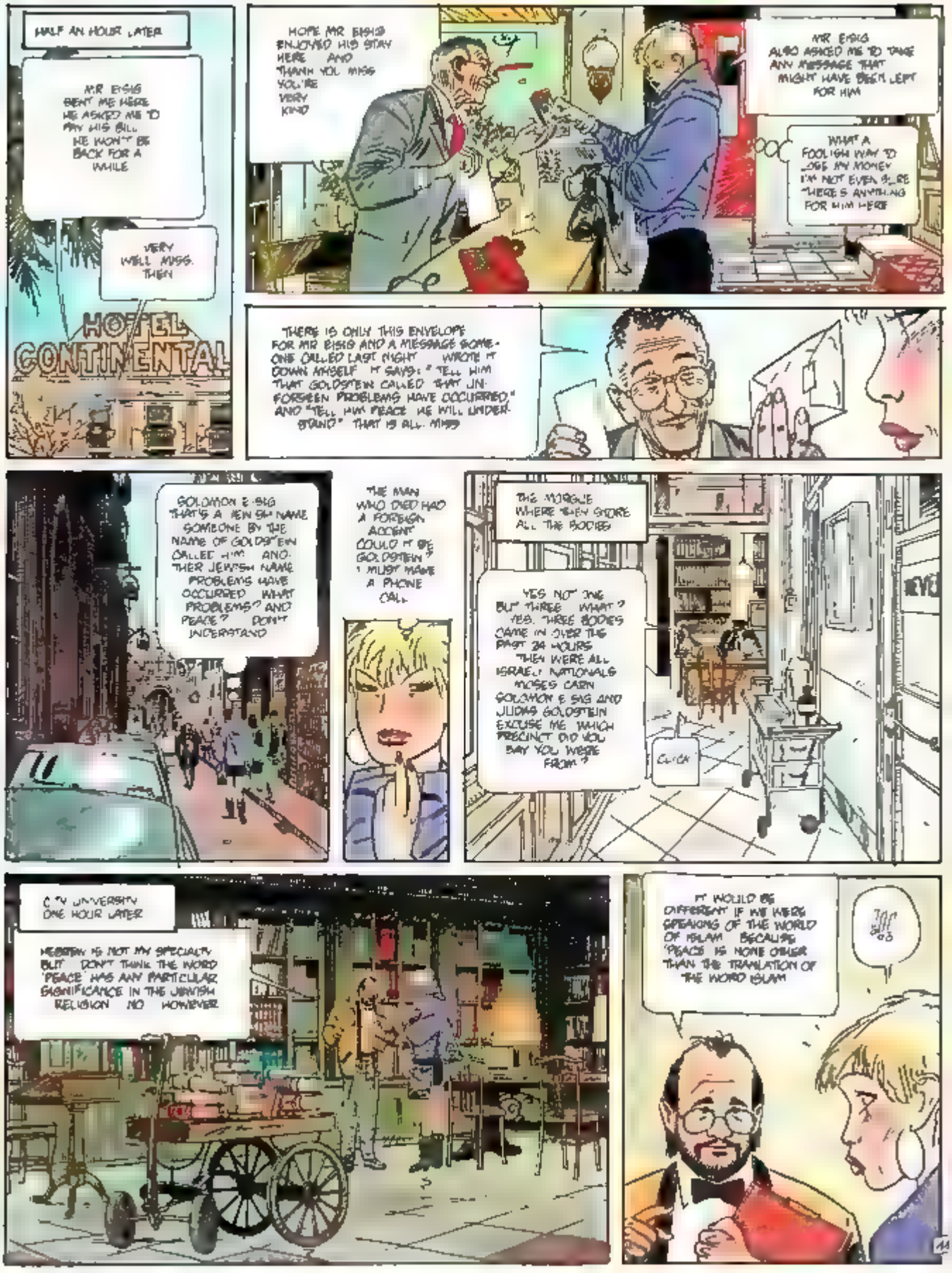
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN EASIER TO SABOTAGE THIS OPERATION AT THE VERY BEGINNING IN STEAD OF FOLLOWING THEM AROUND LIKE THIS? ALL YOU NEEDED TO DO WAS WARN THE LOCAL POLICE
TEL AVIV DECIDES ON THESE MATTERS WE MUST LET THE DEALERS DO THEIR BIT
THEY ARE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH, BUT THEY ARE SOMETIMES USEFUL TO US
THANKS TO THEIR DEALS WE KNOW WHAT IS AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET WHO'S BUYING WHAT
MOSES WATCH OUT
G-AGH!!
ABU DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY
5

BAR
WHAT
NOTHING HE GOT AWAY IT'S MY FAULT I'LL WARN THE OTHERS WE HAVE TO CATCH THAT BASTARD
CONTINENTAL HOTEL? MR EISIG'S ROOM, PLEASE. IT'S URGENT WHAT? HE'S NOT THERE? TELL HIM THAT GOLDSTEIN CALLED
THAT WE'VE HAD SOME UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS THE MESSAGE IS PEACE YES, PEACE HE'LL UNDERSTAND


MOTEL

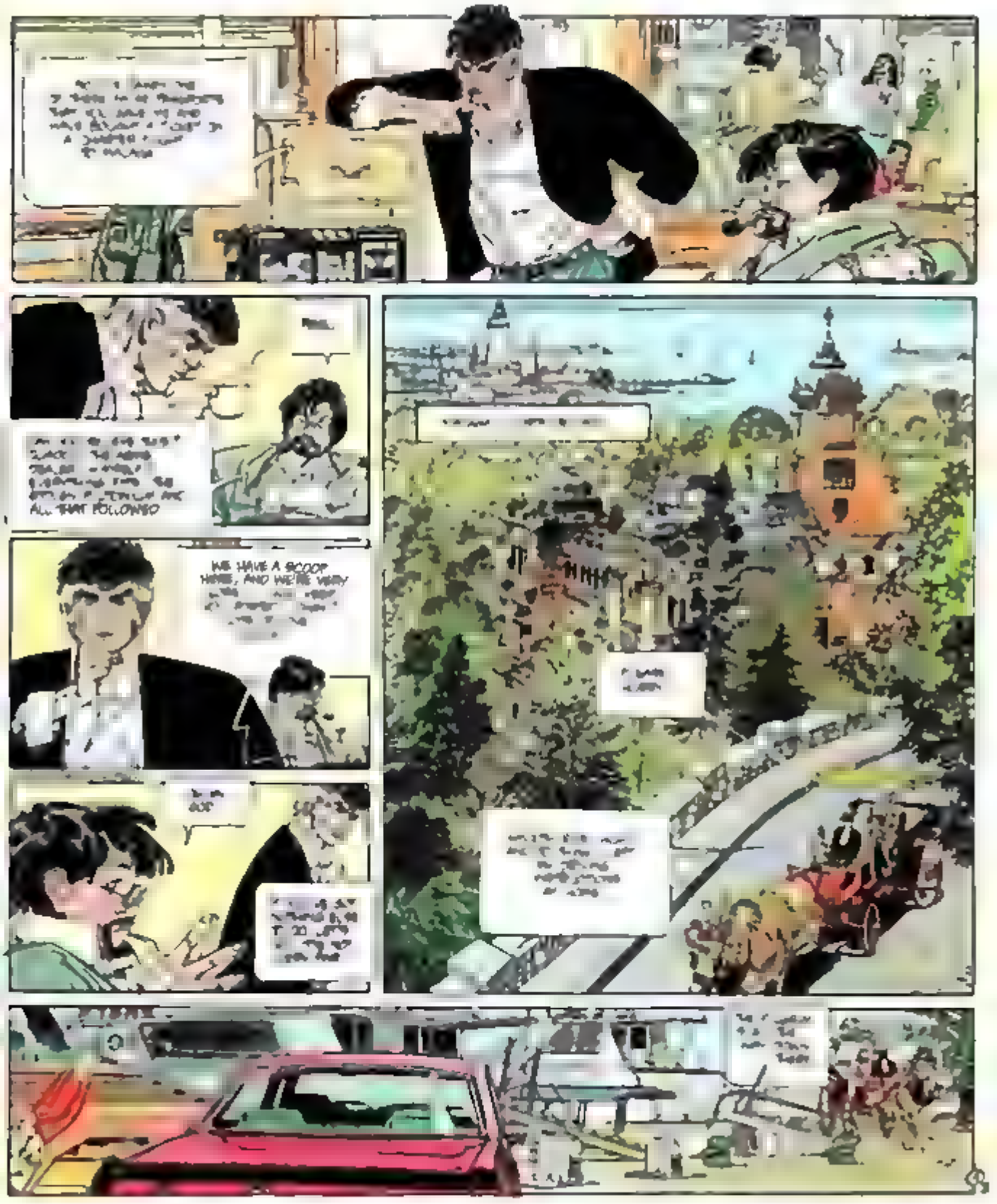
OH! PICTURES PICTURES OF A TRAIN
YES AND JUST A FEW WORDS BEHIND THIS ONE MORNING GLORY
Aurora. Barcelona Dawn 12 2
AL AURORA? AURORA? AURORA AURORA BARCELONA DAWN? DECEMBER 12TH?
A RIDDLE
HEY YOU MAD
MR EISIG WAS LAST SEEN AT THE CONTINENTAL THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY HE HAS NO LUGGAGE AND HIS BILL HASN'T BEEN PAID THE CONCIERGE ISN'T VERY HAPPY
PENSION fatima
GOOD MORNING
ZARO SENT ME HE TOLD ME "TELL MY PEOPLE THAT EVERYTHING IS NOW IN ORDER THE THIRD JEW WILL NOT READ THE TALMUD TONIGHT"
ALLAH HAS TAKEN MERCY ON HIM AND HAS LET HIM AMEND HIS ERROR
DO YOU THINK MR EISIG WILL CALL US?
WE LEFT A MESSAGE AT THE CONTINENTAL IF HE WANTS THAT ENVELOPE AND THOSE PICTURES, HE WILL CALL US
AL TANTO RE "MUNIE" TO SEVERAL ENVIRONMEN TAL GROUPS LAY DOWN ON THE TRACKS THIS MORN ING TO STOP THE TRAIN FROM CROSSING THE FRONTIER OVER THE MOUNTAIN PASS THE FRENCH AND SPANISH POLICE
?

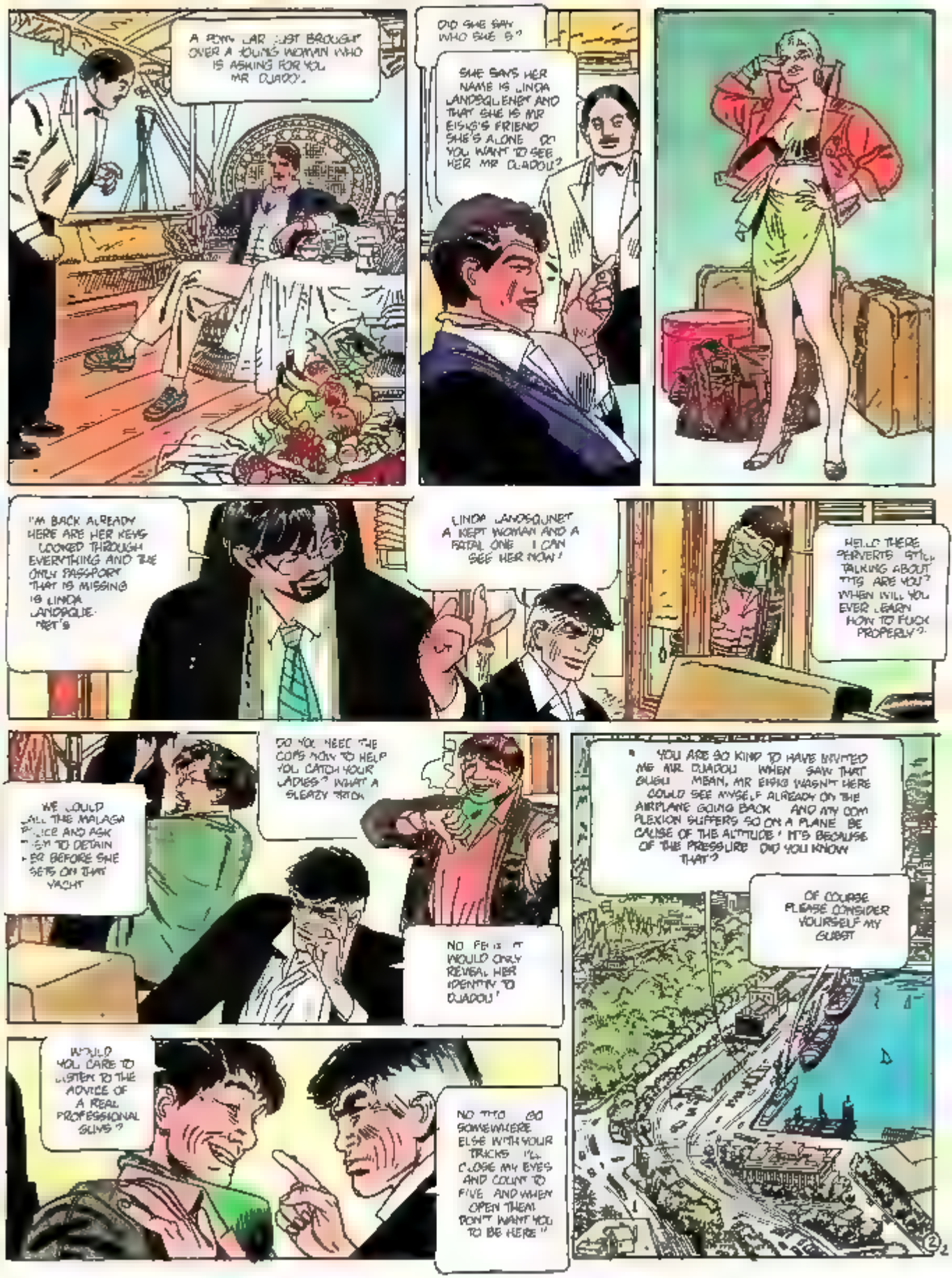

THAT'S THE TRAIN IN THE PICTURE
ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE MILITANTS FAR AWAY FROM THE TRAIN WHICH IS TRANSPORTING
SHHH! SHUT UP LET'S HEAR WHAT HE SAYS
RADIOACTIVE WASTE WHICH COMES FROM NUCLEAR PLANTS AND WILL BE PROCESSED IN FRANCE
I THOUGHT I WOULD FIND YOU HERE I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU
HI FELIX
THE BEARABLE JUNGDA JUST HANDED ME THESE PICTURES NUMBER ONE THERE IS A NUCLEAR TRAIN BEING HELD AT THE FRONTIER NUMBER TWO IT'S THE SAME TRAIN IN THE JEAN MAN'S PICTURES
?!
YOU'RE PHENOMENAL FELIX LET'S FRAME THEM
HE JUST SAW THE EVENING NEWS, FELIX!
I'M USED TO YOUR POISONED 'RINGUE' BUT SARCASM IS ALL RIGHT BECAUSE WON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT
A FREIGHT CAR IS MISSING!
?
HERE FROM THE TRAIN THAT IS BEING HELD AT THE FRONTIER JUST COMPARE THESE TWO PICTURES
!!?
IT CAN'T BE "NUCLEAR" TRAINS ARE ALWAYS CLOSELY MONITORED HAVE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY AND DON'T STOP ANY WHERE THE PICTURES MUST BE FROM TWO DIFFERENT RUNS OF COURSE ON THE OTHER HAND A GUY IS KILLED AND CAN'T BELIEVE IT
I'M SURE THE POLICE KNOWS ALL ABOUT THIS ALREADY THINK I'LL GO ASK THE POLICE CHIEF A FEW QUESTIONS CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT SOMEWHERE?
NO THANKS HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN


HALF AN HOUR LATER
MR EISIG SENT ME HERE. HE ASKED ME TO PAY HIS BILL. HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE
VERY WELL MISS. THEN
HOTEL CONTINENTAL
HOPE MR EISIG ENJOYED HIS STAY HERE. AND THANK YOU. MISS YOU'RE VERY KIND
MR EISIG ALSO ASKED ME TO TAKE ANY MESSAGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LEFT FOR HIM
WHAT A FOOLISH WAY TO LOSE MY MONEY I'M NOT EVEN SURE THERE'S ANYTHING FOR HIM HERE
THERE IS ONLY THIS ENVELOPE FOR MR EISIG AND A MESSAGE SOMEONE CALLED LAST NIGHT. WROTE IT DOWN MYSELF. IT SAYS: " TELL HIM THAT GOLDSTEIN CALLED. THAT UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED." AND "TELL HIM PEACE. HE WILL UNDERSTAND." THAT IS ALL. MISS
SOLOMON EISIG. THAT'S A JEWISH NAME. SOMEONE BY THE NAME OF GOLDSTEIN CALLED HIM. AND ANOTHER JEWISH NAME. PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED. WHAT PROBLEMS? AND PEACE? DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE MAN WHO DIED HAD A FOREIGN ACCENT. COULD IT BE GOLDSTEIN? I MUST MAKE A PHONE CALL
THE MORGUE. WHERE THEY STORE ALL THE BODIES
YES. NOT ONE BUT THREE. WHAT? YES. THREE BODIES CAME IN OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS. THEY WERE ALL ISRAELI NATIONALS. MOSES CAIN. SOLOMON EISIG AND JUDAS GOLDSTEIN. EXCUSE ME. WHICH PRECINCT DID YOU SAY YOU WERE FROM?
CLICK
CITY UNIVERSITY. ONE HOUR LATER
HEBREW IS NOT MY SPECIALTY. BUT I DON'T THINK THE WORD 'PEACE' HAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE JEWISH RELIGION. NO. HOWEVER
IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF WE WERE SPEAKING OF THE WORLD OF ISLAM. BECAUSE 'PEACE' IS NONE OTHER THAN THE TRANSLATION OF THE WORD ISLAM
JM 03
44

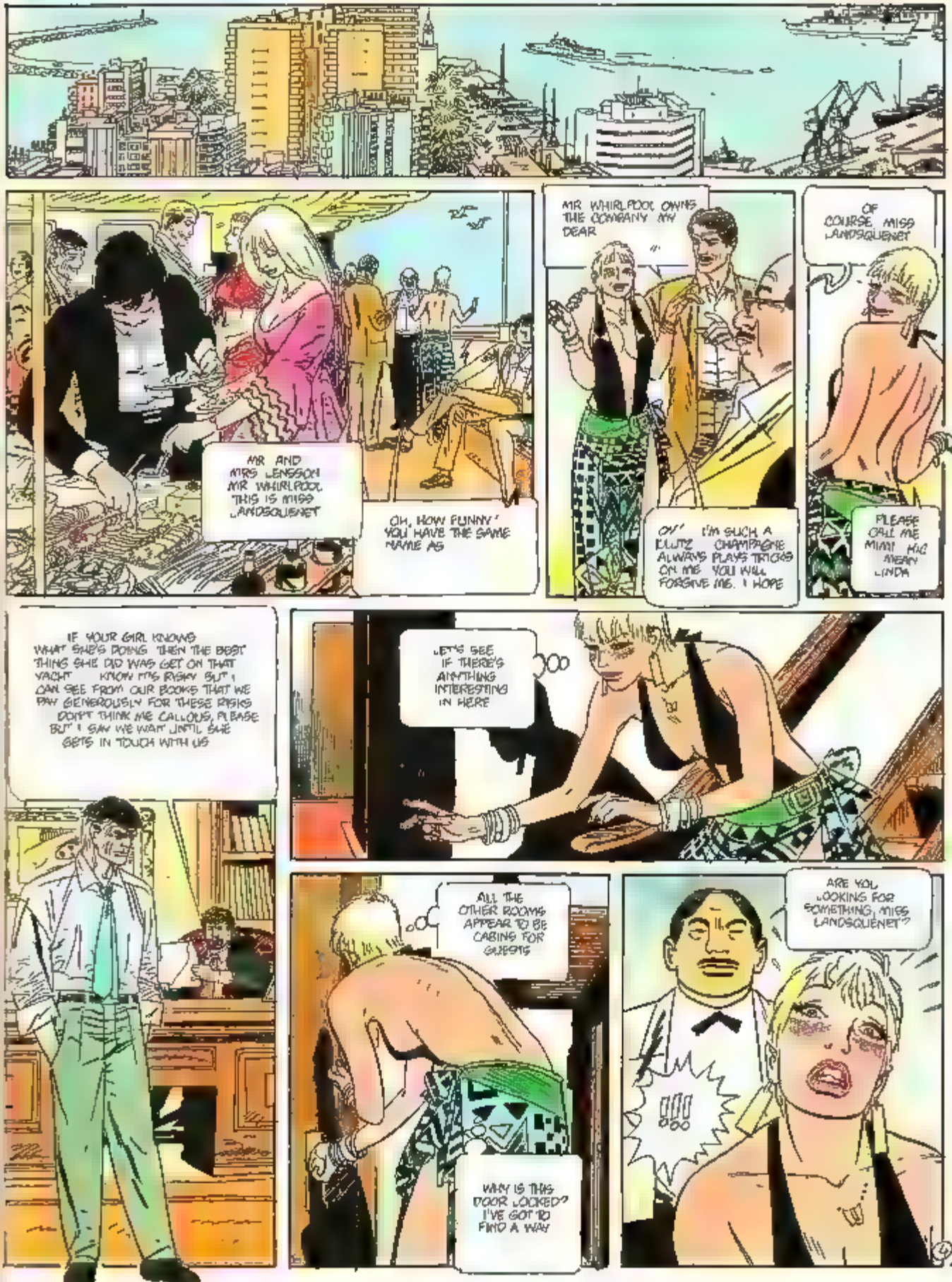
COULD IT BE THAT GOLDSTEIN WANTED TO ALERT EISIG TO THE PRESENCE OF A GROUP OF ARABS PALESTINIANS MAYBE ?
LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN THIS ENVELOPE
WHAT'S THIS ?!
GOOD LORD THERE MUST BE MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN HERE" AND A NOTE
I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU ON THE "PILGRIM", IN MALAGA WE WILL LEAVE ON THE 14TH TO JOIN THE "AURORA" BRING YOUR NEW FRIEND IT WILL BE A VERY AGREEABLE CROSSING. SIGNED DJADOU
SO THEN "AURORA" IS SOME KIND OF SHIP
AND WHAT ABOUT DJADOU ? DJADOU OF COURSE ! THE MUCH MILLIONAIRE" HE IS A WELL KNOWN ARMS DEALER !
AND HAD SOLD OUT TO DJADOU !
TAX
THE AURORA IS GOING TO LEAVE AT DAWN, ON THE SECOND OF FEBRUARY, "DOAW" WON'T GET THERE IN TIME
BUT THE "PILGRIM" IS GOING TO LEAVE ON THE 14TH, AND I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET THERE. NELSON. I'LL SEND YOU A POSTCARD !
THE PIECES ARE BEGINNING TO COME TOGETHER GOLDSTEIN WANTED TO TELL EISIG THE NAME OF THE SHIP WHICH IS TRANSPORTING THE PLUTONIUM STOLEN FROM THE "NUCLEAR" TRAIN BUT THIS NOTE AND THE MONEY PROVE THAT EISIG KNEW EVERY THING ALREADY
SAY GOODBYE TO TAX, SAILOR BECAUSE A NEW CHARACTER IS ABOUT TO TAKE OVER EISIG'S NEW FRIEND !
12

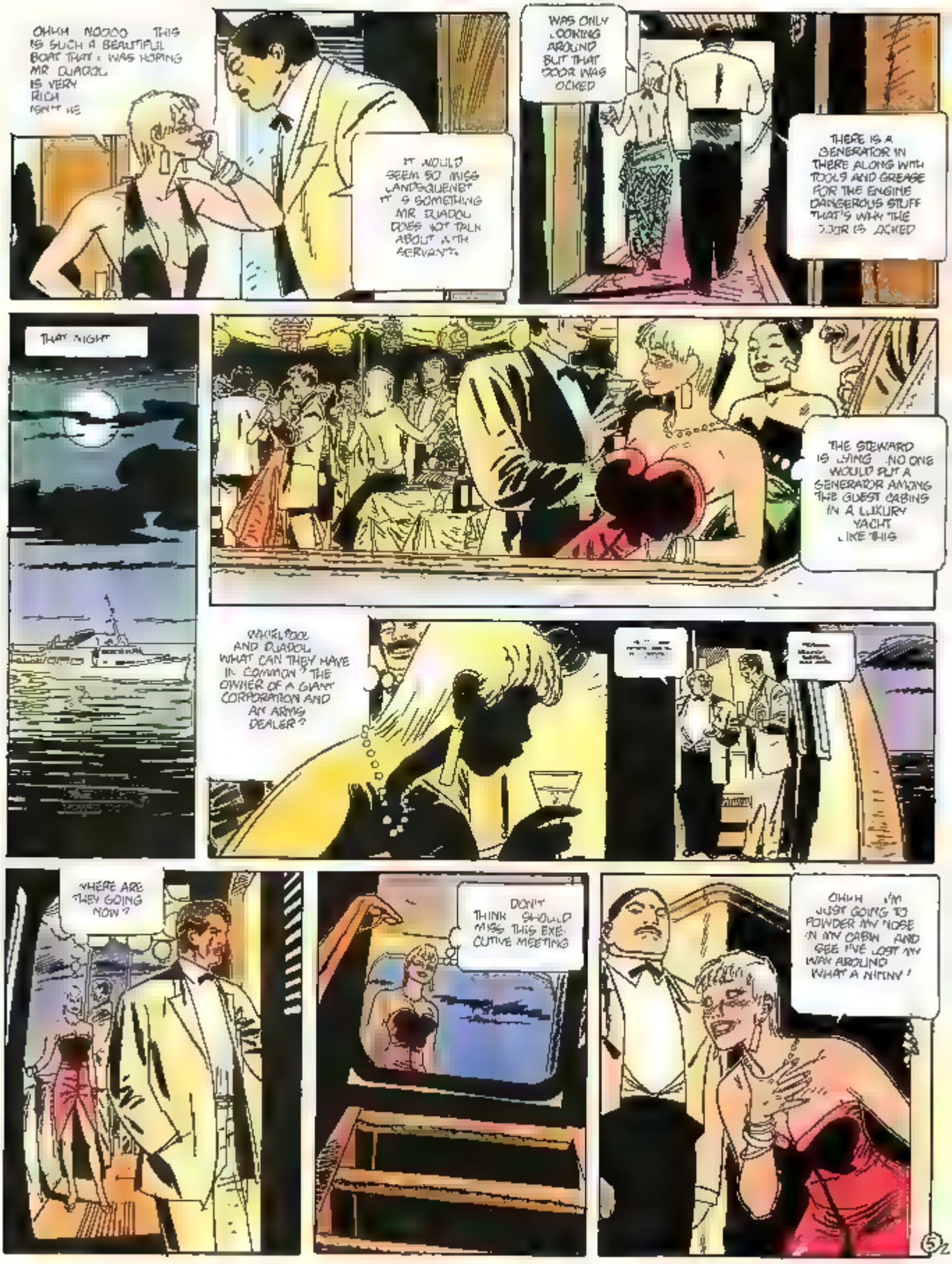
2. A CRUISE INTO HELL

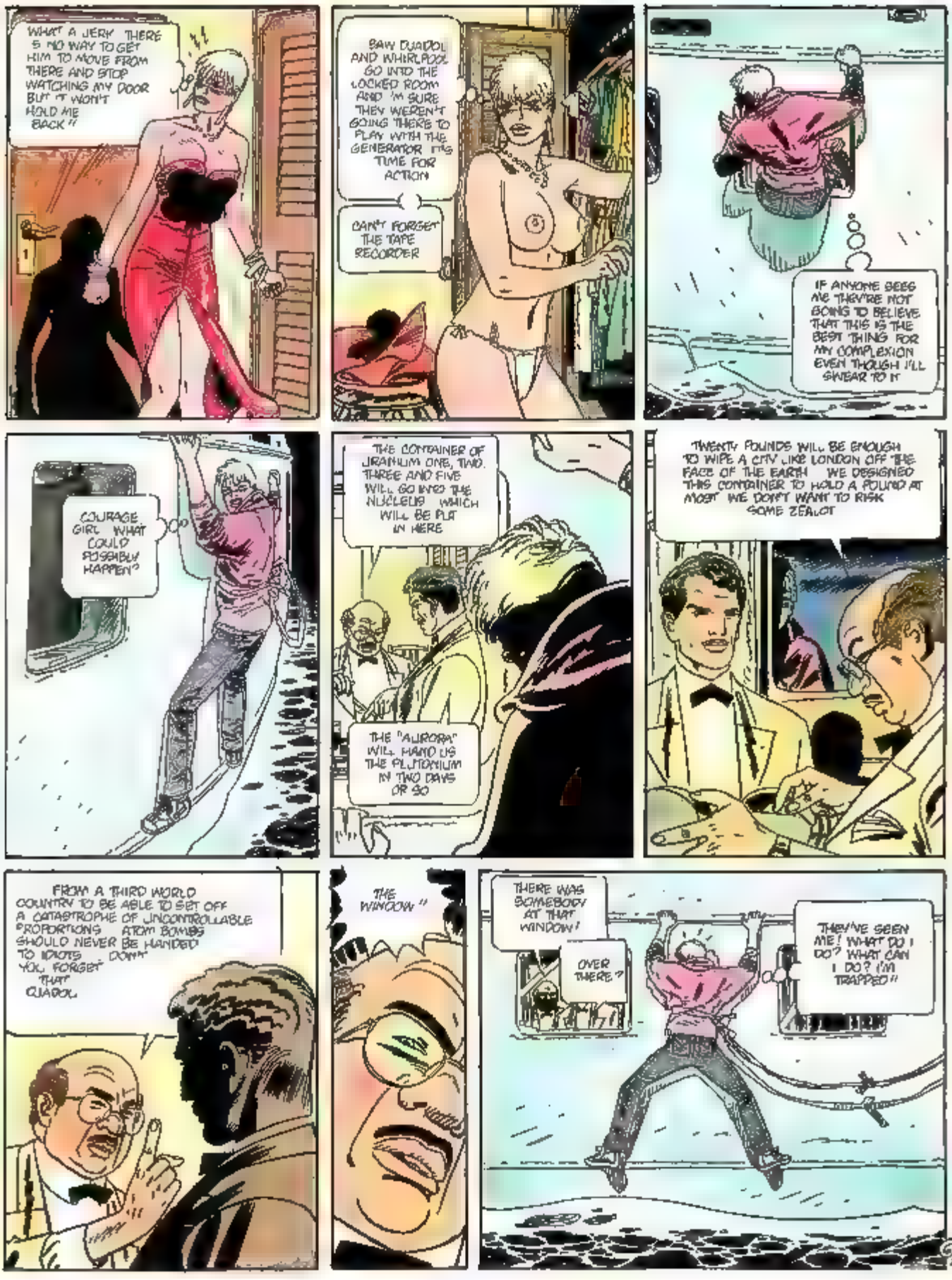


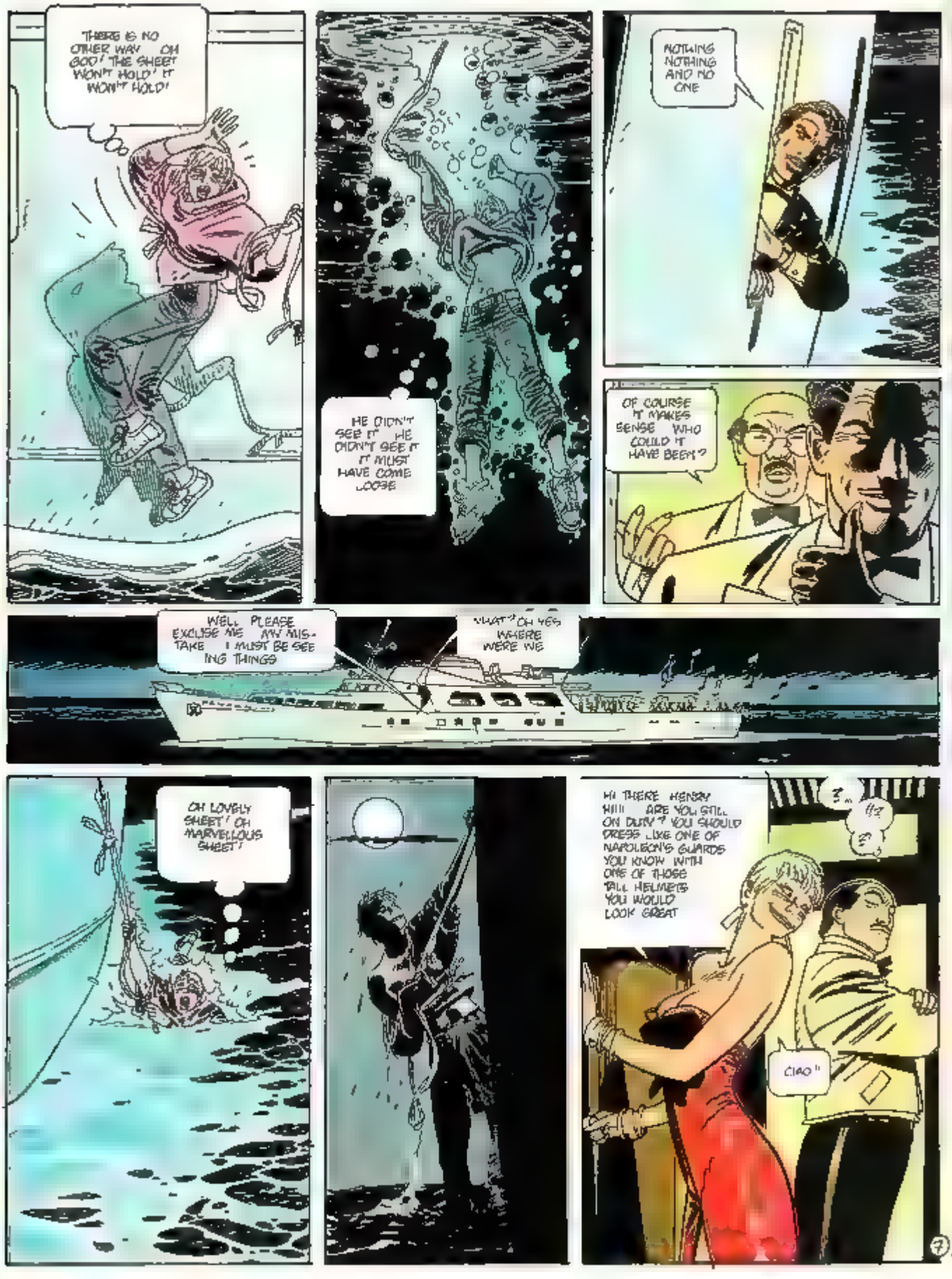

A PORTER JUST BROUGHT OVER A YOUNG WOMAN WHO IS ASKING FOR YOU MR DJADOU.
DID SHE SAY WHO SHE IS?
SHE SAYS HER NAME IS LINDA LANDSQUENET AND THAT SHE IS MR EISKS'S FRIEND SHE'S ALONE DO YOU WANT TO SEE HER MR DJADOU?
I'M BACK ALREADY HERE ARE HER KEYS I LOOKED THROUGH EVERYTHING AND THE ONLY PASSPORT THAT IS MISSING IS LINDA LANDSQUENET'S
LINDA LANDSQUENET A KEPT WOMAN AND A FATAL ONE I CAN SEE HER NOW!
HELLO THERE PERVERTS STILL TALKING ABOUT TITS ARE YOU? WHEN WILL YOU EVER LEARN HOW TO FUCK PROPERLY?
DO YOU NEED THE COPS NOW TO HELP YOU CATCH YOUR LADIES? WHAT A SLEAZY BITCH
WE COULD CALL THE MALAGA POLICE AND ASK THEM TO DETAIN HER BEFORE SHE SETS ON THAT YACHT
NO FEAR IT WOULD ONLY REVEAL HER IDENTITY TO DJADOU!
YOU ARE SO KIND TO HAVE INVITED ME MR DJADOU WHEN SAW THAT BUSH I MEAN, MR EISKS WASN'T HERE COULD SEE MYSELF ALREADY ON THE AIRPLANE GOING BACK AND MY COMPLEXION SUFFERS SO ON A PLANE BECAUSE OF THE ALTITUDE, IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE DID YOU KNOW THAT?
OF COURSE PLEASE CONSIDER YOURSELF MY GUEST
WOULD YOU CARE TO LISTEN TO THE ADVICE OF A REAL PROFESSIONAL SLIMS?
NO TITO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE WITH YOUR TRICKS I'LL CLOSE MY EYES AND COUNT TO FIVE AND WHEN OPEN THEM I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE HERE"

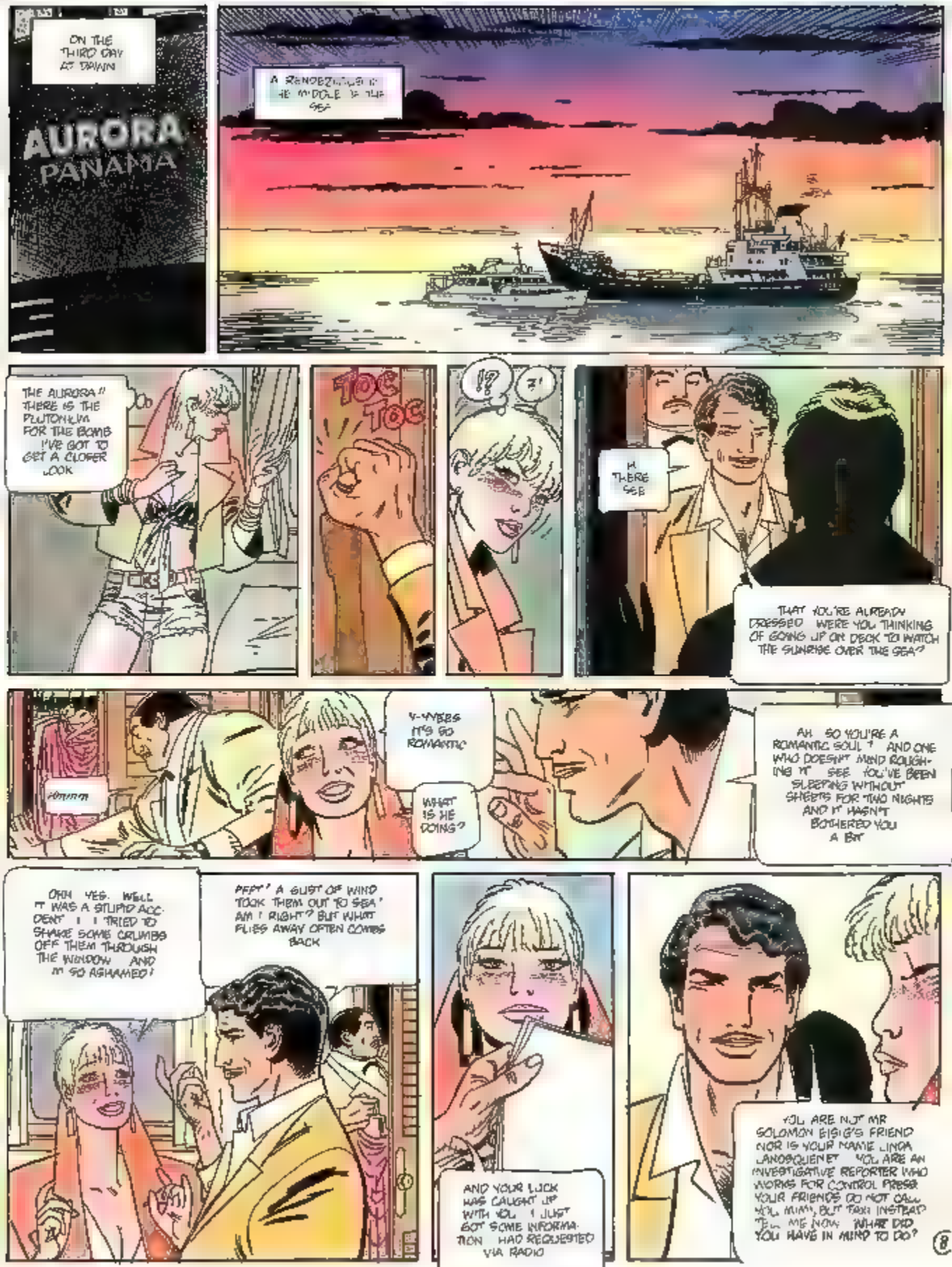
HENRY
MY STEWARD WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO YOUR CABIN, MISS LANDSQUENET
PLEASE CALL ME LINDA OR MIMI IF YOU PREFER MY FRIENDS CALL ME MIMI
MIMI? WHAT A LOVELY NAME
THIS WAY, MISS
BYE BYE SEE YOU LATER
IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU WISH TO ASK FOR JUST PICK UP THE TELEPHONE
THAT'S GREAT THANK YOU HENRY
IT WAS SO EASY TO GET HERE, THAT CAN'T QUITE BE LIEVE IT YET!
IT'S JUST AMAZING YOU OPEN YOUR SHIRT AND TRY TO LOOK YOUR STUPIDEST AND MEN FALL AT YOUR FEET
WHICH COULD MEAN THAT MEN ARE JUST NAT URALLY ATTRACTED TO STUPIDITY
IT'S REALLY NOT A COM FORTING IDEA
BUT RIGHT NOW IT WILL HELP TO GET DJADOU TO TRUST ME
YES I'LL FAX YOU HER PICTURE AND PERSONAL DATA TODAY. WANT ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN GET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
ALL THE GUESTS ARE ON BOARD SHOULD WE WAIT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE YOUNG GIRL BEFORE WE LEAVE?
NO NO WHY SHOULD WE? WE'RE BETTER OFF KNOWING EXACTLY WHERE OUR ENEMIES ARE
3


MR AND MRS LENSSON MR WHIRLPOOL THIS IS MISS LANDSQUENET
OH, HOW FUNNY! YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS
MR WHIRLPOOL OWNS THE COMPANY MY DEAR
OH! I'M SUCH A KLUTZ CHAMPAGNE ALWAYS PLAYS TRICKS ON ME YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, I HOPE
OF COURSE, MISS LANDSQUENET
PLEASE CALL ME MIMI! HIC MEANY LINDA
IF YOUR GIRL KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING THEN THE BEST THING SHE DID WAS GET ON THAT YACHT KNOW IT'S RISKY BUT I CAN SEE FROM OUR BOOKS THAT WE PAY GENEROUSLY FOR THESE RISKS DON'T THINK ME CALLOUS, PLEASE BUT I SAY WE WAIT UNTIL SHE GETS IN TOUCH WITH US
LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING INTERESTING IN HERE
ALL THE OTHER ROOMS APPEAR TO BE CABINS FOR GUESTS
WHY IS THIS DOOR LOCKED? I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, MISS LANDSQUENET?
!!!

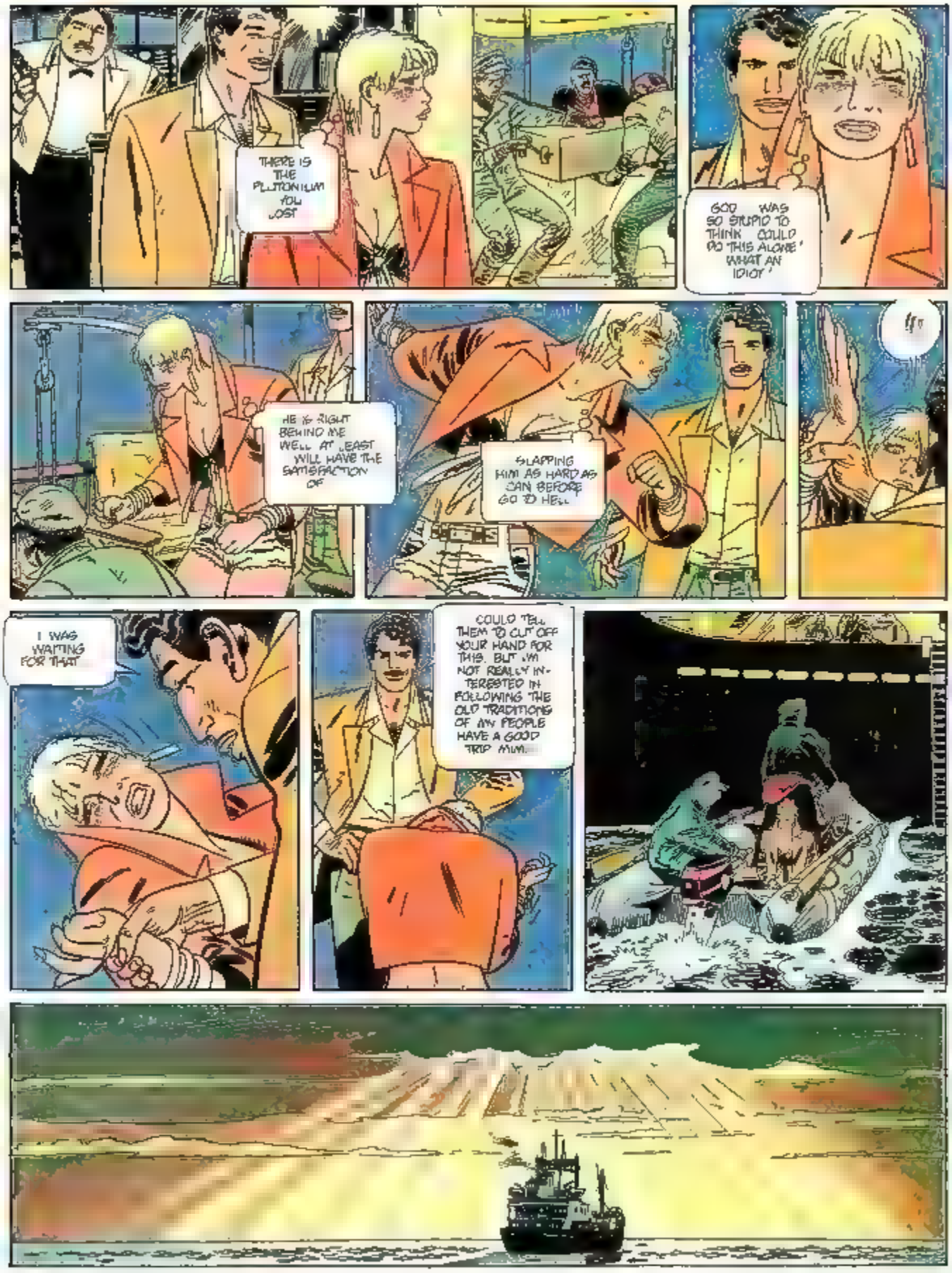

OHHH NOOOO THIS IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL BOAT THAT I WAS HOPING MR QUADDL IS VERY RICH RIGHT HE
IT WOULD SEEM SO MISS LANDSQUENET IT S SOMETHING MR QUADDL DOES NOT TALK ABOUT WITH SERVANTS
I WAS ONLY LOOKING AROUND BUT THAT DOOR WAS OCKED
THERE IS A GENERATOR IN THERE ALONG WITH TOOLS AND GREASE FOR THE ENGINE DANGEROUS STUFF THAT'S WHY THE DOOR IS LOCKED
THAT NIGHT
THE STEWARD IS LYING NO ONE WOULD PUT A GENERATOR AMONG THE GUEST CABINS IN A LUXURY YACHT LIKE THIS
WHIRLPOOL AND QUADDL WHAT CAN THEY HAVE IN COMMON ? THE OWNER OF A GIANT CORPORATION AND AN ARMS DEALER ?
WHERE ARE THEY GOING NOW ?
DONT THINK SHOULD MISS THIS EXECUTIVE MEETING
OHHH I'M JUST GOING TO POWDER MY NOSE IN MY CABIN AND SEE I'VE LOST MY WAY AROUND WHAT A NIMNY !
5/2


WHAT A JERK THERE'S NO WAY TO GET HIM TO MOVE FROM THERE AND STOP WATCHING MY DOOR BUT IT WON'T HOLD ME BACK!!
RAW QUADOL AND WHIRLPOOL GO INTO THE LOCKED ROOM AND I'M SURE THEY WEREN'T GOING THERE TO PLAY WITH THE GENERATOR IT'S TIME FOR ACTION
CAN'T FORGET THE TAPE RECORDER
IF ANYONE SEES ME THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEST THING FOR MY COMPLEXION EVEN THOUGH I'LL SWEAR TO IT
COURAGE GIRL WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?
THE CONTAINER OF URANIUM ONE, TWO, THREE AND FIVE WILL GO INTO THE NUCLEUS WHICH WILL BE PUT IN HERE
THE "AURORA" WILL HAND US THE PLUTONIUM IN TWO DAYS OR SO
TWENTY POUNDS WILL BE ENOUGH TO WIPE A CITY LIKE LONDON OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH WE DESIGNED THIS CONTAINER TO HOLD A POUND AT MOST WE DON'T WANT TO RISK SOME ZEALOT
FROM A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY TO BE ABLE TO SET OFF A CATASTROPHE OF UNCONTROLLABLE PROPORTIONS ATOM BOMBS SHOULD NEVER BE HANDED TO IDIOTS DON'T YOU FORGET THAT QUADOL
THE WINDOW!!
THERE WAS SOMEBODY AT THAT WINDOW!
OVER THERE?
THEY'VE SEEN ME! WHAT DO I DO? WHAT CAN I DO? I'M TRAPPED!!

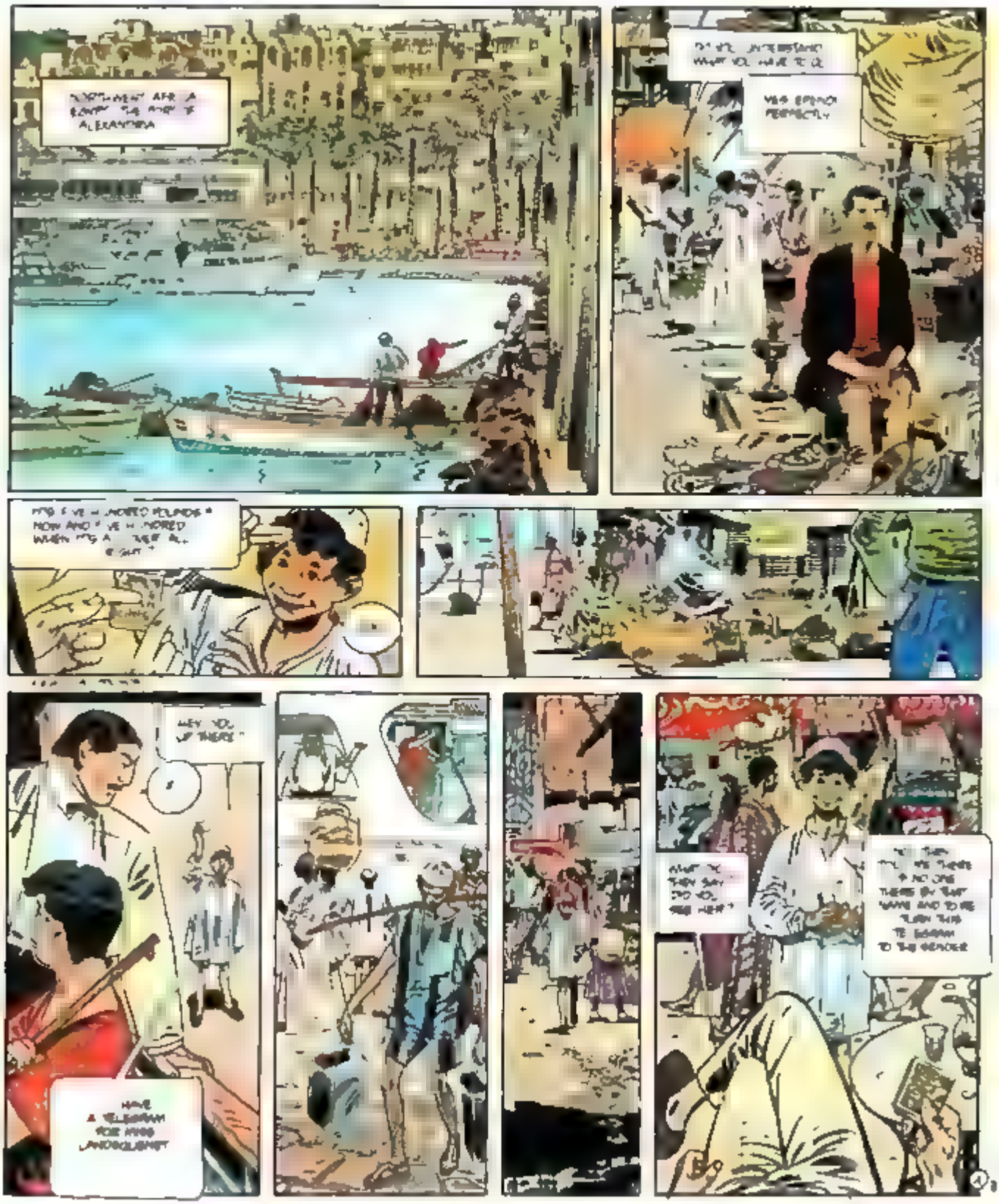

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OH GOD! THE SHEET WON'T HOLD! IT WON'T HOLD!
HE DIDN'T SEE IT HE DIDN'T SEE IT IT MUST HAVE COME LOOSE
NOTHING NOTHING AND NO ONE
OF COURSE IT MAKES SENSE WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN?
WELL PLEASE EXCUSE ME ANY MISTAKE I MUST BE SEEING THINGS
WHAT? OH YES WHERE WERE WE
OH LOVELY SHEET! OH MARVELLOUS SHEET!
HI THERE HENRY HIII ARE YOU STILL ON DUTY? YOU SHOULD DRESS LIKE ONE OF NAPOLEON'S GUARDS YOU KNOW WITH ONE OF THOSE TALL HELMETS YOU WOULD LOOK GREAT
?..
!!?
CIAO !!

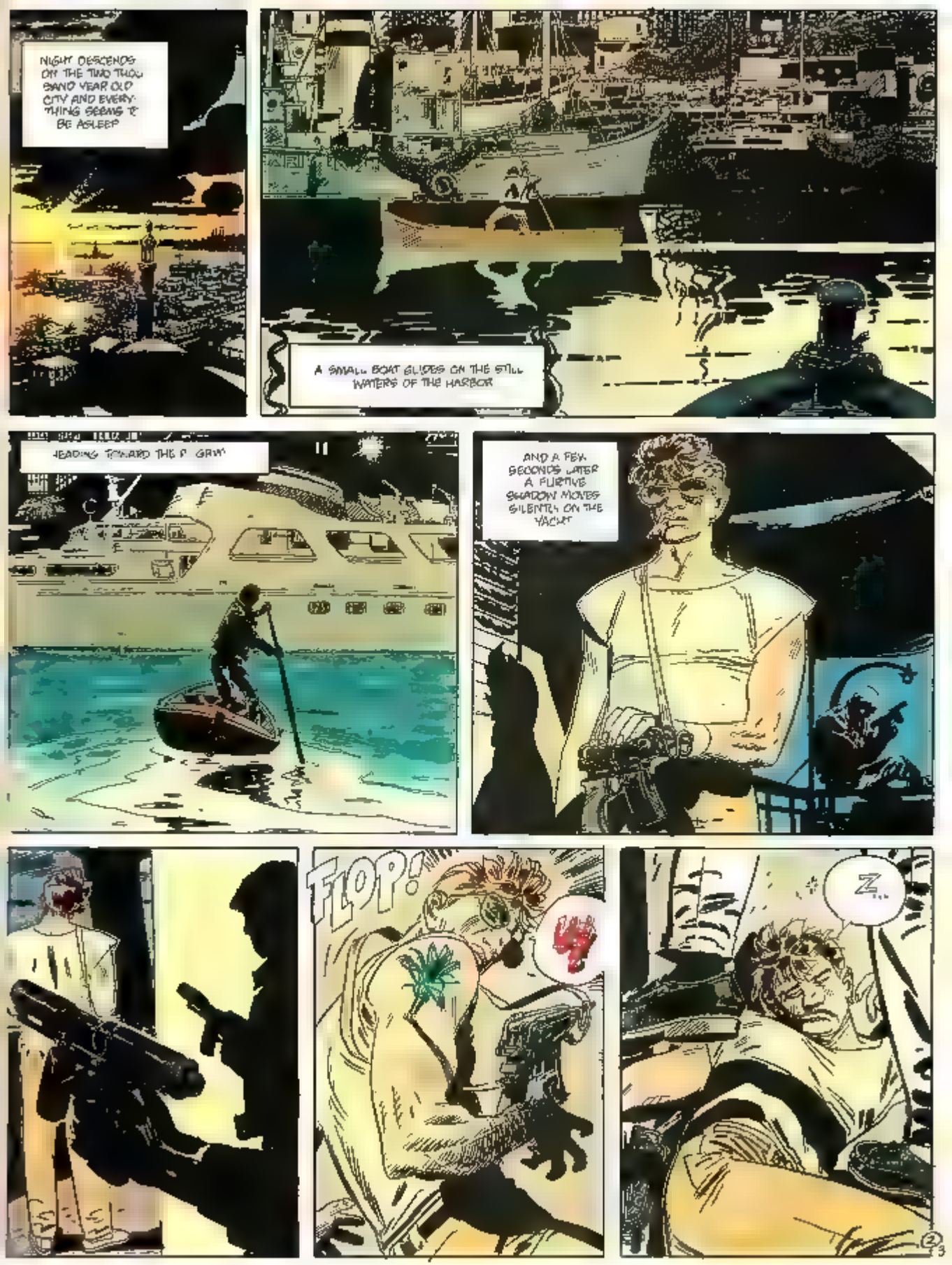

ON THE THIRD DAY AT DAWN
AURORA
PANAMA
A RENDEZVOUS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA
THE AURORA!! THERE IS THE PLUTONIUM FOR THE BOMB I'VE GOT TO GET A CLOSER LOOK
TOC TOC
!?
?!
HI THERE SEB
THAT YOU'RE ALREADY DRESSED WERE YOU THINKING OF GOING UP ON DECK TO WATCH THE SUNRISE OVER THE SEA?
MMMM
V-WEBBS IT'S SO ROMANTIC
WHAT IS HE DOING?
AH SO YOU'RE A ROMANTIC SOUL ? AND ONE WHO DOESN'T MIND ROUGHING IT SEE YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING WITHOUT SHEETS FOR TWO NIGHTS AND IT HASN'T BOTHERED YOU A BIT
OHH YES. WELL IT WAS A STUPID ACCIDENT I I TRIED TO SHAKE SOME CRUMBS OFF THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW AND I'M SO ASHAMED!
PFFT! A GUST OF WIND TOOK THEM OUT TO SEA! AM I RIGHT? BUT WHAT FLIES AWAY OFTEN COMES BACK
AND YOUR LUCK HAS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU I JUST GOT SOME INFORMATION HAD REQUESTED VIA RADIO
YOU ARE NOT MR SOLOMON BIGI'S FRIEND NOR IS YOUR NAME LINDA LANDESQUIENET YOU ARE AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER WHO WORKS FOR CONTROL PRESS YOUR FRIENDS DO NOT CALL YOU MIMI, BUT TAXI INSTEAD TELL ME NOW WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND TO DO?
8

I WANTED TO PREVENT INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU AND MR WHIRLPOOL FROM MAKING MONEY ON THE LIVES OF IN NOCENT PEOPLE THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO DO" AND I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF I COULD HAND YOU OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES
YOU REALLY ARE ROMANTIC
DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU ALMOST WOUNDED MY PRIDE WHEN YOU TOOK ME FOR SUCH AN IDIOT EISIG'S LOVER IS A YOUNG UNIVERSITY STU DENT FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHO IS STUDYING BIOLOGY IN JAFFA I MET HER LAST YEAR IN PORT SUDAN, ON THE RED SEA SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MAM
I INVITED YOU ON BOARD BECAUSE I WANTED TO KNOW WHO YOU WERE THE SPANISH POLICE MAYBE? OR YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A SPY FROM TEL AVIV DON'T FORGET THAT EISIG IS A TRAITOR TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL"
"IS?" HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT EISIG IS DEAD
OR YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A CIA OPERATIVE MR WHIRL POOL IS A TRAITOR TO HIS OWN COUNTRY THE USA BY SELLING SOPHISTICATED TECH NOLOGY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER
WHEN YOU TALK OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY DO YOU MEAN AN ATOM BOMB THAT CAN KILL THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE MR DJADOU?
DO YOU THINK IT IS "THAT DESPICABLE" JUST THINK THAT THOSE BUILT BY YOUR DEMO CRATIC GOVERNMENT CAN ANNIHILATE MIL LIONS OF INDIVIDUALS, AND THE END RESULT IS THE SAME POWER MONEY
YOURS IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF OPPORTUNISM TO HIDE BEHIND EVEN GREATER EVILS DOES NOT EXONERATE YOU"
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL AMONG HER THINGS MR DJADOU
HE'S THROWING MY STUFF OVERBOARD ARE YOU SEEKING REVENGE FOR YOUR SHEETS DJADOU?
THINGS LOOK BAD FOR YOU, TAX
MIM YOU ARE LEAVING US YOU ARE CHANGING SHIPS. THE AURORA HOW EVER, IS A CARGO SHIP AND THERE ARE NO PARTIES ON BOARD YOU WILL NEED NO CREW TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR DESTINATION
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO THE CONTROL PRESS? THEY KNOW I'M HERE
YOU CAME DOWN WITH APPENDICITIS. LUCKILY WE RAN INTO A CARGO SHIP WITH A DOCTOR AND INFIRMARY ON BOARD. THEY TOOK YOU. PEOPLE WILL TESTIFY TO THAT
ALAS AN EXPLOSION IN THE ENGINE ROOM WILL SINK THE AURORA YOU STILL CONVALESCING WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REACH THE RESCUE BOATS. I'M SAD, I KNOW, BUT DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH AURORA IS AN OLD BOAT AND IT IS VERY WELL INSURED BY LLOYDS OF LONDON
SHALL WE GO?
9


THERE IS THE PLUTONIUM YOU LOST
GOD WAS SO STUPID TO THINK COULD DO THIS ALONE! WHAT AN IDIOT!
HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME WELL AT LEAST WILL HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF
SLAPPING HIM AS HARD AS CAN BEFORE GO TO HELL
I WAS WAITING FOR THAT
COULD TELL THEM TO CUT OFF YOUR HAND FOR THIS. BUT I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING THE OLD TRADITIONS OF MY PEOPLE HAVE A GOOD TRIP MUM.

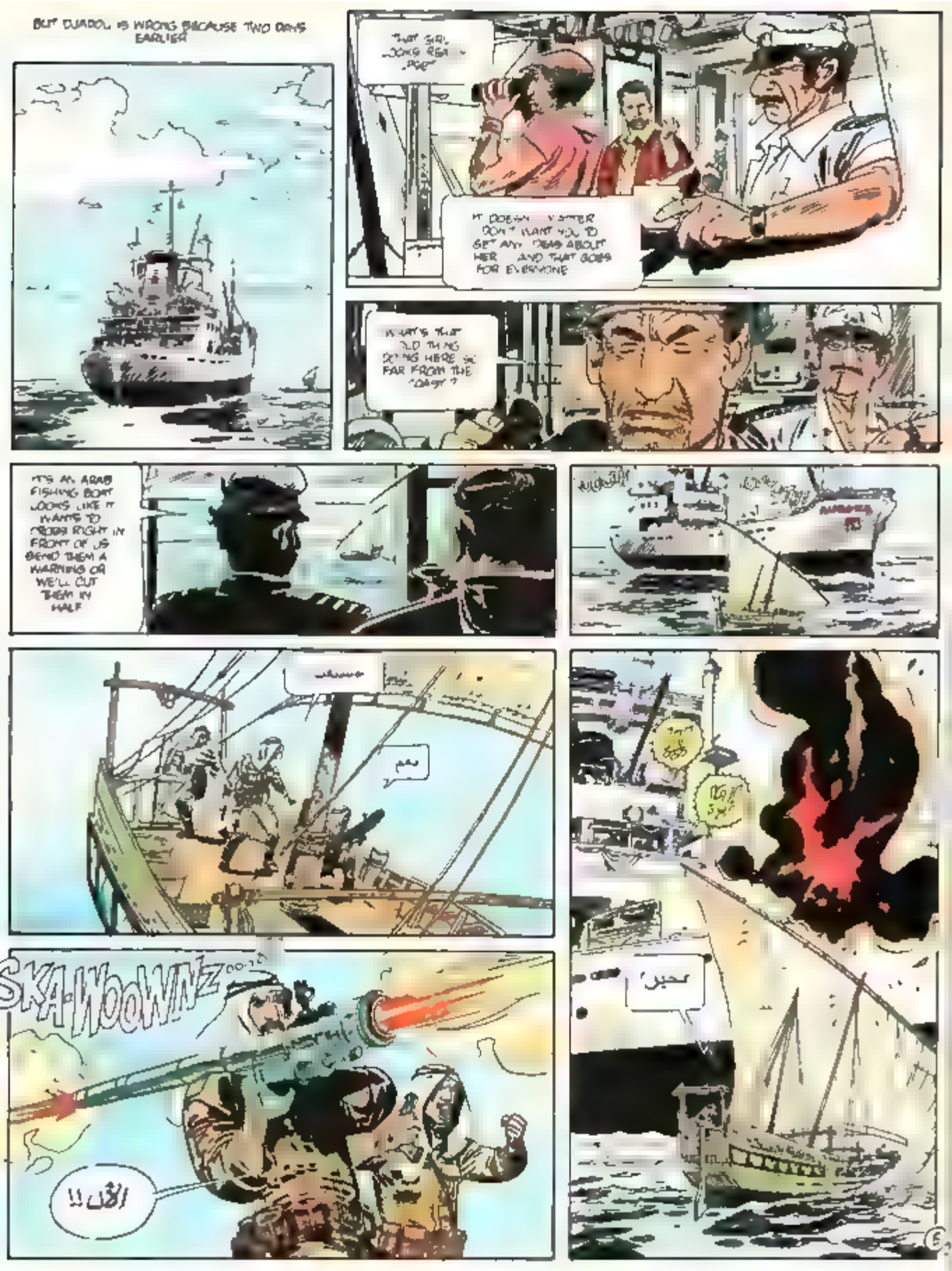
3. THE GREAT EMPTINESS

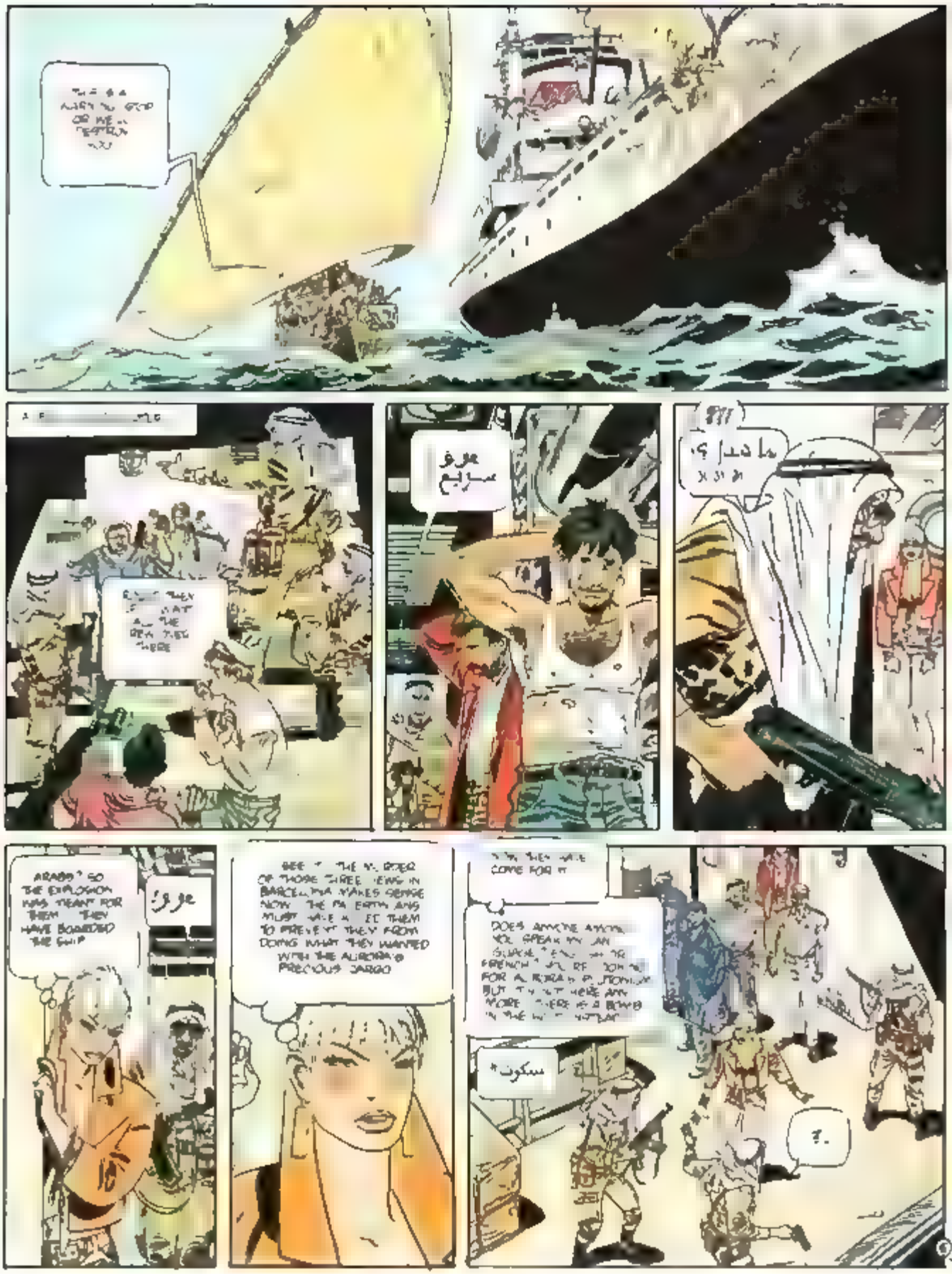

ALEXANDRIA
YES SIR! NO PROBLEMS NOW AND I'VE NEVER WHEN IT'S A
HAVE A TELEGRAM FOR MISS JACKSLIGHT
HAVE YOU SEEN THERE
AND TO BE
TELEGRAM TO THE GENERAL

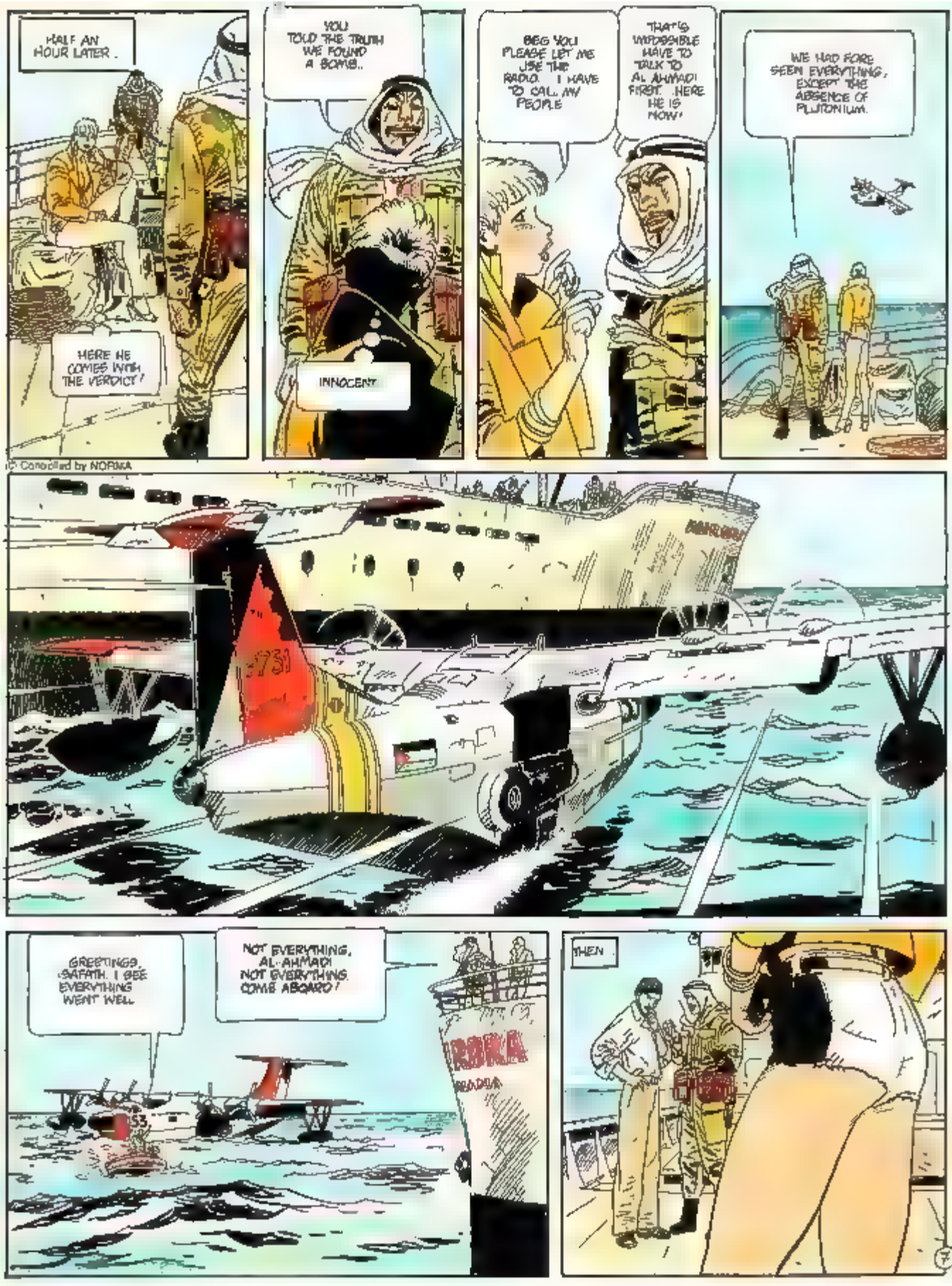

NIGHT DESCENDS ON THE TWO THOUSAND YEAR OLD CITY AND EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE ASLEEP
A SMALL BOAT GLIDES ON THE STILL WATERS OF THE HARBOR
HEADING TOWARD THE P. GRAY
AND A FEW SECONDS LATER A FURTIVE SHADOW MOVES SILENTLY ON THE YACHT
FLOP!
Z...

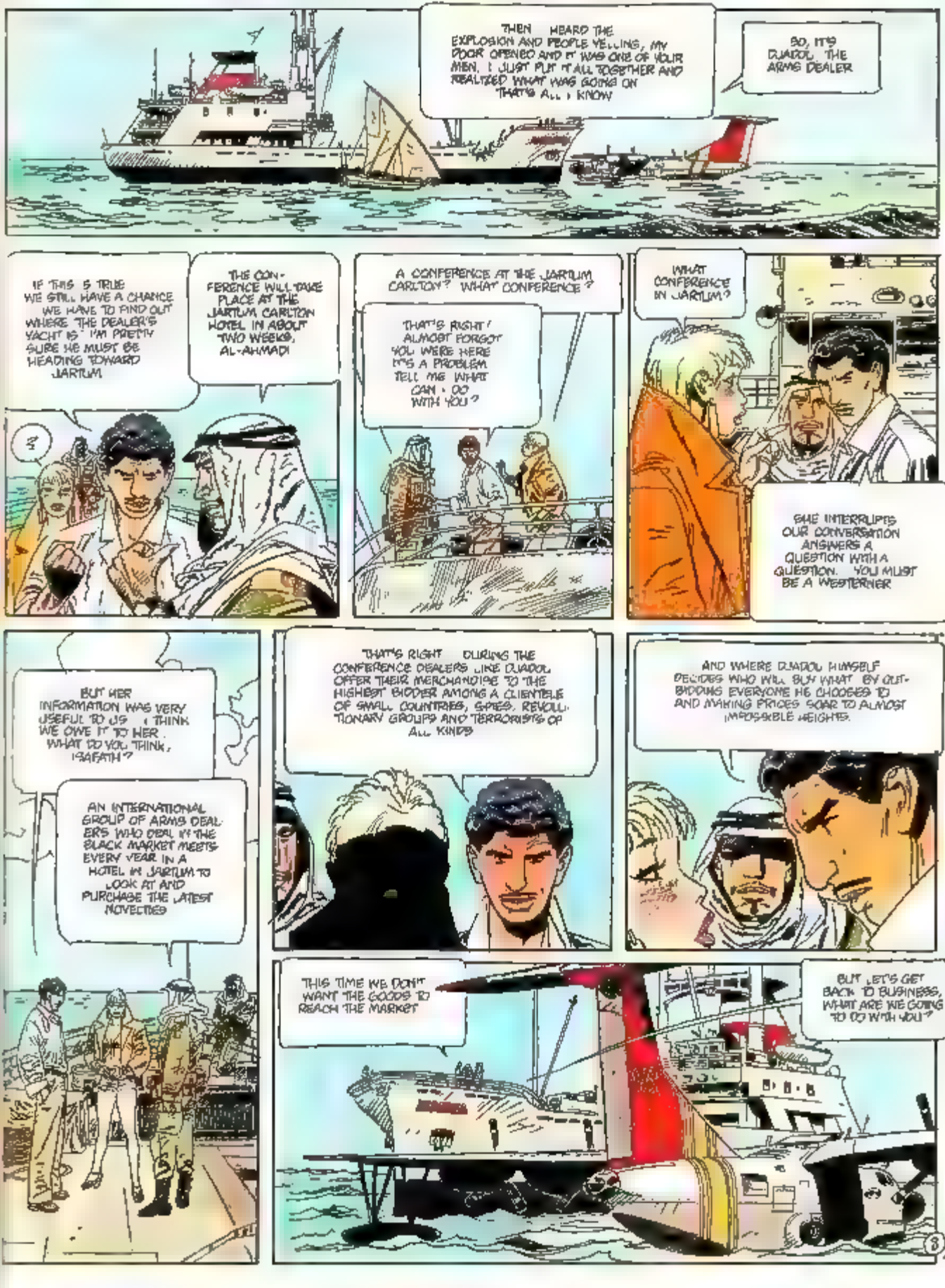
DJADOL SLEEPS SERENELY IN HIS CABIN
AND HIS GUARDS SLEEP IS EVEN DEEPER THAN HIS
GET UP DJADOL ! WAKE UP
JUST A FEW WORDS WHERE IS LINDA LANDSQUENET ??
WHERE IS SHE DJADOL ?
TREATED THEM TO A FEW NARCOTIC DARTS BUT YOU KNOW ARMS SO YOU ALSO KNOW THAT THIS SMALL SCORPION RIGHT HERE HAS A DEADLY FINE WHERE IS SHE ??
SHE ISN'T HERE
WHO ARE YOU ??
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ? YOU MUST BE CRAZY THERE ARE GUARDS ALL OVER THE PLACE !!!
AH!!
THIS IS NOT A GAME DJADOL WHERE IS TAXI ??
YOU ARE A RABID ANIMAL
I AM A RABID MAN AN ACT WITH CONSUMATE FURIOSITY

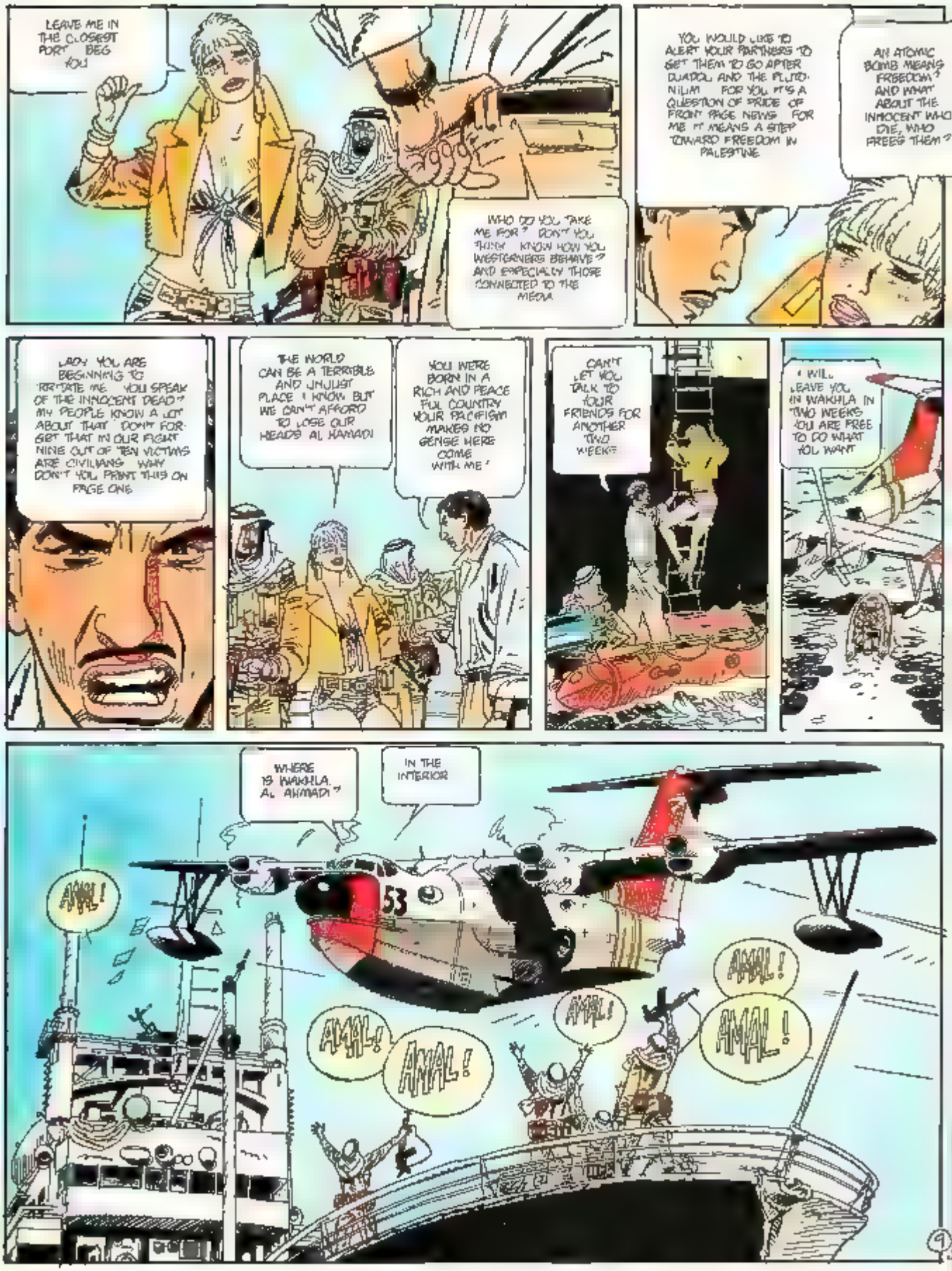
FEAR THE WORST THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY DJADOL
!!!
!!!
MR DJADOL ! THE GUARDS
POWN! POWN!
T-T-R-R-T-R T-R...
AYYYY...
AY-YYYY!!
AYYYY...? AIY...! O-O-OH!...
DON'T SHOOT
AO-OOOH!
SHE IS ALIVE PROMISE SHE SWITCHED BOATS IN OPEN SEA SHE WENT ON A CARGO SHIP CALLED AURORA I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH !
THIS HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO AURORA WAS HEADING TOWARDS CYPRUS THERE YOUR FRIEND WILL GET OFF
TEN MILES FROM THE COAST AND 400 YARDS UNDERWATER SHE MUST ALREADY BE THERE SONOFABITCH


BUT DUARDO IS WRONG BECAUSE TWO DAYS EARLIER
THAT GIRL LOOKS REAL POOR
IT DOESN'T MATTER DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT HER AND THAT GOES FOR EVERYONE
WHAT'S THAT OLD THING DOING HERE SO FAR FROM THE COAST ?
IT'S AN ARAB FISHING BOAT LOOKS LIKE IT WANTS TO CROSS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US SEND THEM A WARNING OR WE'LL CUT THEM IN HALF
SKA-WOOWNZ
الآن !!
5


ARABS? SO THE EXPLOSION WAS MEANT FOR THEM THEY HAVE BOARDED THE SHIP
SEE ? THE W... RDER OF THOSE THREE JEWS IN BARCE...NA MAKES SENSE NOW THE PA ERTH AND MUST HAVE A... ED THEM TO PREVENT THEY FROM DOING WHAT THEY WANTED WITH THE ALIENA'S PRECIOUS CARGO
DOES ANYONE ANYON... YOU SPEAK MY LAN... GUAGE ? ENG... OR FRENCH ? WE'LL BE JOINED FOR AL ROKA'S PLUNDER BUT THEY'RE HERE ANY MORE THERE'S A BOMB IN THE HOLD
سكوت !
؟


HALF AN HOUR LATER.
HERE HE COMES WITH THE VERDICT!
YOU TOLD THE TRUTH WE FOUND A BOMB..
INNOCENT
BEG YOU PLEASE LET ME USE THE RADIO. I HAVE TO CALL MY PEOPLE
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE HAVE TO TALK TO AL AHMADI FIRST. HERE HE IS NOW!
WE HAD FORE SEEN EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THE ABSENCE OF PLUTONIUM.
© Conceived by MOEBIUS
GREETINGS SAFATH. I SEE EVERYTHING WENT WELL
NOT EVERYTHING, AL-AHMADI NOT EVERYTHING. COME ABOARD!
THEN


THEN I HEARD THE EXPLOSION AND PEOPLE YELLING, MY DOOR OPENED AND IT WAS ONE OF YOUR MEN. I JUST PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON THAT'S ALL I KNOW
SO, IT'S OUADOU, THE ARMS DEALER
IF THIS IS TRUE WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE DEALER'S YACHT IS I'M PRETTY SURE HE MUST BE HEADING TOWARD JARTUM
THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JARTUM CARLTON HOTEL IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, AL-AHMADI
?
A CONFERENCE AT THE JARTUM CARLTON? WHAT CONFERENCE?
THAT'S RIGHT! ALMOST FORGOT YOU WERE HERE IT'S A PROBLEM TELL ME WHAT CAN I DO WITH YOU?
WHAT CONFERENCE IN JARTUM?
SHE INTERRUPTS OUR CONVERSATION ANSWERS A QUESTION WITH A QUESTION. YOU MUST BE A WESTERNER
BUT HER INFORMATION WAS VERY USEFUL TO US I THINK WE OWE IT TO HER. WHAT DO YOU THINK, ISAFATH?
AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF ARMS DEALERS WHO DEAL IN THE BLACK MARKET MEETS EVERY YEAR IN A HOTEL IN JARTUM TO LOOK AT AND PURCHASE THE LATEST NOVELTIES
THAT'S RIGHT DURING THE CONFERENCE DEALERS LIKE OUADOU OFFER THEIR MERCHANDISE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AMONG A CLIENTELE OF SMALL COUNTRIES, SPIES, REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS AND TERRORISTS OF ALL KINDS
AND WHERE OUADOU HIMSELF DECIDES WHO WILL BUY WHAT BY OUTBIDDING EVERYONE HE CHOOSES TO AND MAKING PRICES SOAR TO ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE HEIGHTS.
THIS TIME WE DON'T WANT THE GOODS TO REACH THE MARKET
BUT LET'S GET BACK TO BUSINESS, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
8
3

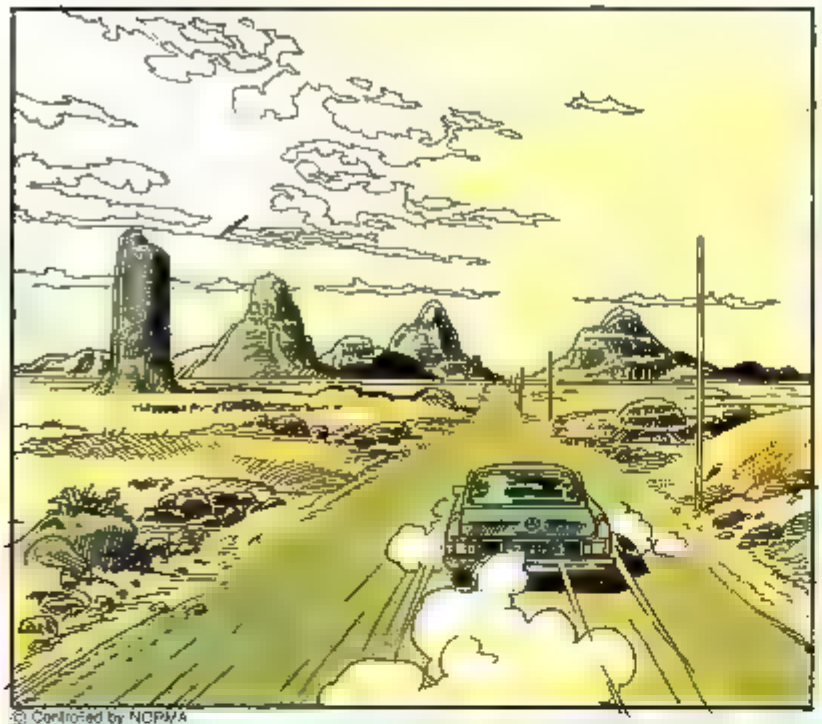

LEAVE ME IN THE CLOSEST PORT BEG YOU
WHO DO YOU TAKE ME FOR? DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW HOW YOU WESTERNERS BEHAVE? AND ESPECIALLY THOSE CONNECTED TO THE MEDIA
YOU WOULD LIKE TO ALERT YOUR PARTNERS TO GET THEM TO GO AFTER DJADDOL AND THE PLUTONIUM FOR YOU IT'S A QUESTION OF PRIDE OF FRONT PAGE NEWS FOR ME IT MEANS A STEP TOWARD FREEDOM IN PALESTINE
AN ATOMIC BOMB MEANS FREEDOM? AND WHAT ABOUT THE INNOCENT WHO DIE, WHO FREES THEM?
LADY YOU ARE BEGINNING TO IRRITATE ME YOU SPEAK OF THE INNOCENT DEAD? MY PEOPLE KNOW A LOT ABOUT THAT DON'T FORGET THAT IN OUR FIGHT NINE OUT OF TEN VICTIMS ARE CIVILIANS WHY DON'T YOU PRINT THIS ON PAGE ONE
THE WORLD CAN BE A TERRIBLE AND UNJUST PLACE I KNOW BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE OUR HEADS AL HAMADI
YOU WERE BORN IN A RICH AND PEACEFUL COUNTRY YOUR PACIFISM MAKES NO SENSE HERE COME WITH ME!
CAN'T LET YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS
I WILL LEAVE YOU IN WAKHLA IN TWO WEEKS YOU ARE FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT
WHERE IS WAKHLA, AL HAMADI?
IN THE INTERIOR
53
AWAL!
AWAL!
AWAL!
AWAL!
AWAL!
AWAL!
9

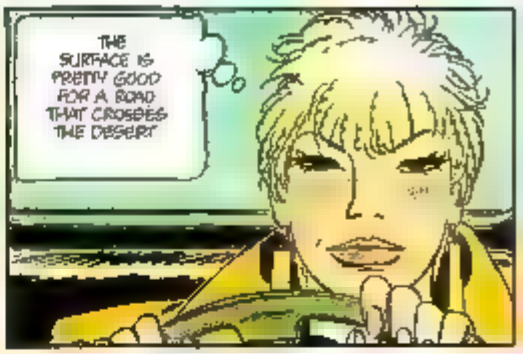
MAKHA 5 ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF IN THAT DIRECTION YOU'LL SEE THERE'S A EUROPEAN DELEGATE'S OFFICE
?
BUT DON'T EXPECT A WARM RECEPTION
?
A EUROPEAN DELEGATE? MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH NELSON IMMEDIATELY
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME? I'M LOOKING FOR THE EUROPEAN DELEGATE WHERE DOES HE LIVE?
YES MISTER YOU COME WITH ME I'LL TAKE YOU THERE
YES INDEED SIR
MR GOREL THERE SELLS ALL YOU DOLLAR FOR ME?
A DOLLAR GOOD LORD NO I THINK ALL MY MONEY IS WITH MY STUFF AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA HERE TAKE THIS RING. IT'S WORTH MORE THAN A DOLLAR ARE YOU SATISFIED? OKAY?
10

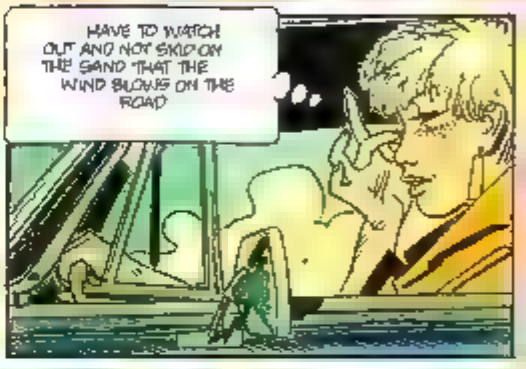
MR GOREL PRESUME? PLEASE EXCUSE ME BUT DESPERATELY NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT
!!?!?!
WHO ARE YOU AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
MR GOREL THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IT'S A LONG STORY MAY USE YOUR TELEPHONE?
THE THE TELEPHONE I'M SORRY IT STOPPED WORKING SOME TIME AGO ALMOST FIVE MONTHS
IS THERE ANOTHER ONE?
NO THIS WAS THE ONLY ONE
WELL YOU MUST HAVE A RADIO-TRANSMITTER SOMETHING WITH WHICH TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD!
THE REST OF THE WORLD?
AH THE WORLD YES I MEAN NO
NO IT'S AN OLD BOX AND IT'S BEEN OUT OF FLUID FOR MORE THAN A MONTH IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF KASHASHER'S TRANSFORMER
BUT I NEED IT! HOW CAN I GET TO THE CLOSEST CITY?
OH YES THERE IS A BUS THAT COMES EVERY TWO WEEKS OR SO IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL YOU CAN GET TO N'DJAMENA IN ANOTHER FIVE OR SIX DAYS IT HAS AN AIRPORT YOU KNOW
N'DJAMENA BUT THAT'S IN CHAD! AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A TWENTY DAY TRIP! DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME, MR GOREL
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO GET OUT OF HERE WELL YOU CAN FOLLOW THE TRAIL THROUGH THE OASES IT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE NILE TO ABUAN OR LUXOR THERE YOU WILL FIND TELEPHONES, CURRENCY, ALL YOU COULD POSSIBLY NEED
HOW MANY DAYS WILL IT TAKE?
WHAT?
FIVE OR SIX BUT YOU WILL NEED TO WAIT AT LEAST THAT LONG FOR A CARAVAN. MISS THE CLOSEST SETTLEMENT IS 150 MILES NORTH-WEST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SAHARA
44
3

WELL DONE AL AHMADI
MR GOREL WOULD YOU GIVE ME SOME WATER AND SUPPLIES IN EXCHANGE FOR THESE BRACELETS?
ARE THEY GOLD? REALLY? THEY ARE WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE!
THE OLD CAR PARKED OUTSIDE IS YOURS, ISN'T IT? COULD YOU LEND IT TO ME TO TRAVEL THOSE 150 MILES? MY BRACELETS WILL COVER YOUR COST
OH NO NO NO
YOUR BRACELETS ARE WORTH A LOT BUT WHAT GOOD ARE THEY TO ME HERE? I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THEIR FULL VALUE FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG NO NO
OKAY LET'S NOT DISCUSS IT ANYMORE
THE ROAD TO THE FIRST SETTLEMENT IS NORTHWEST OF HERE ISN'T IT?
WHAT? YES YES THAT'S RIGHT TELL ME DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NAME SAHARA MEANS? THE GREAT EMPTINESS THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS THE GREAT EMPTINESS
SO IF YOU'RE THINKING OF GOING ON FOOT YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN THOUGHT
GH GH GH... RRRROM! VROUMM!
HEY HEEY! MY CAR GIVE ME BACK MY CAR!!
YOU ARE CRAZY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO FACE YOU DON'T KNOW THE SAHARA!!
WE'RE EVEN THEN, MR GOREL THE SAHARA DOESN'T KNOW ME EITHER

4. SAHARA!!







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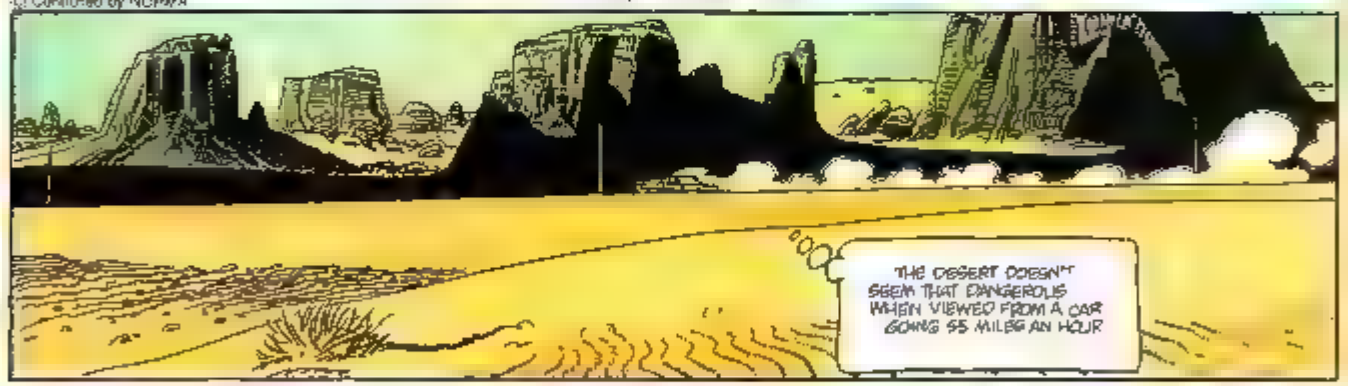
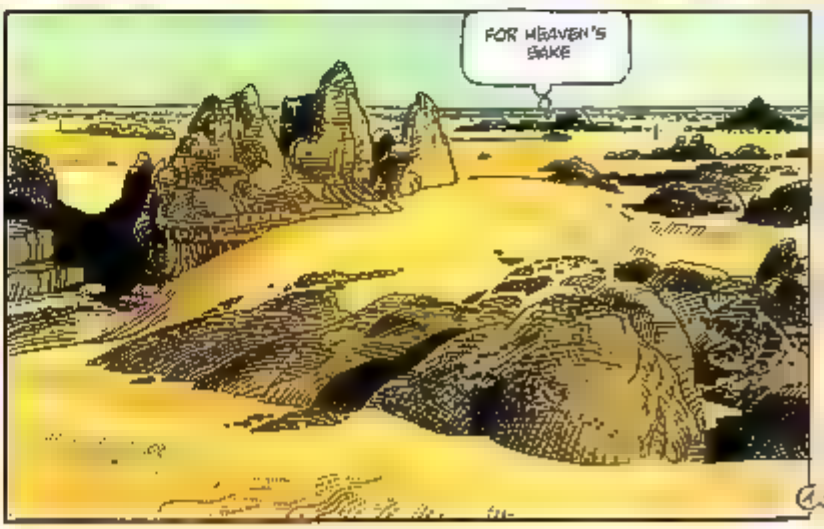
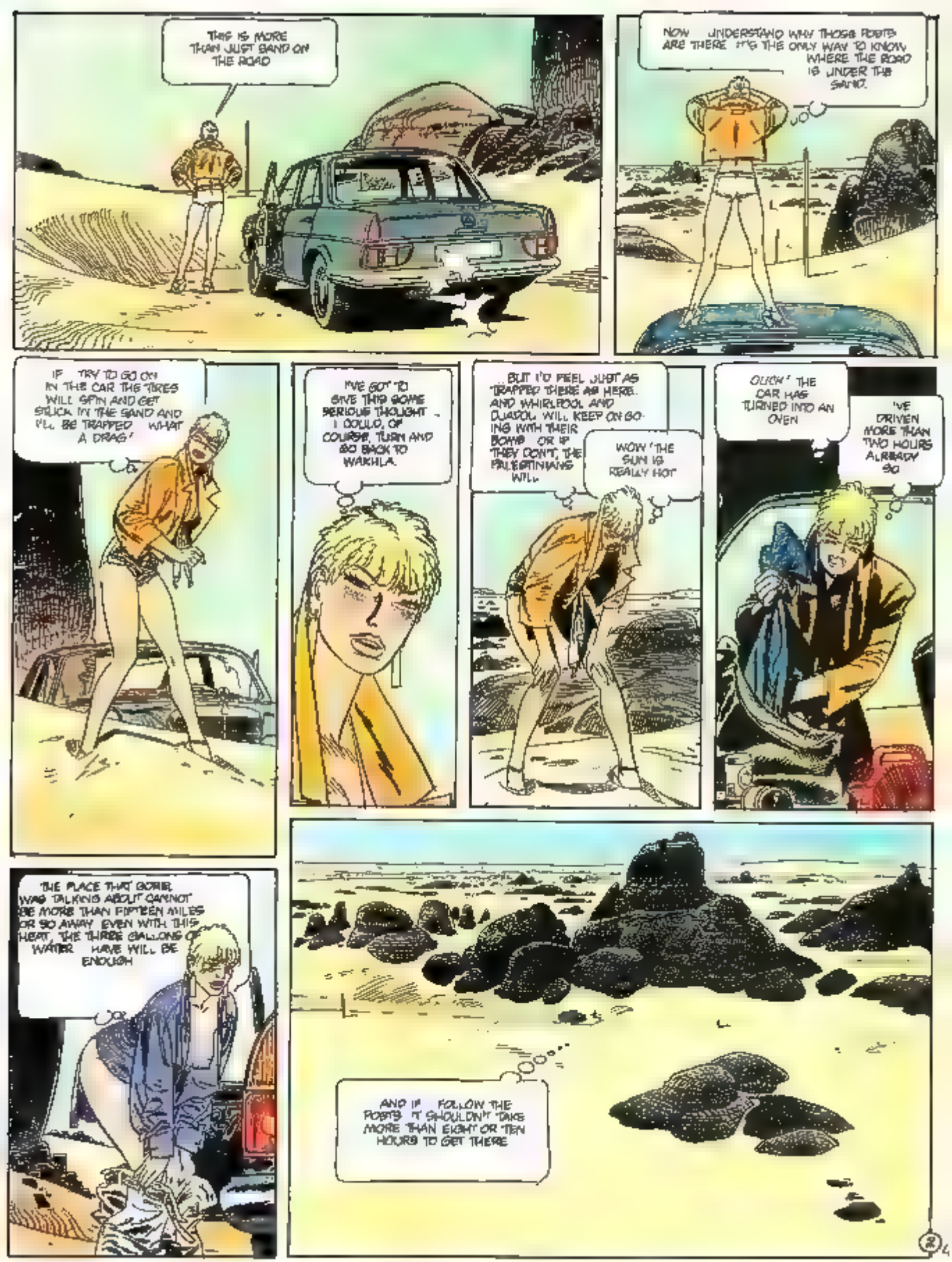
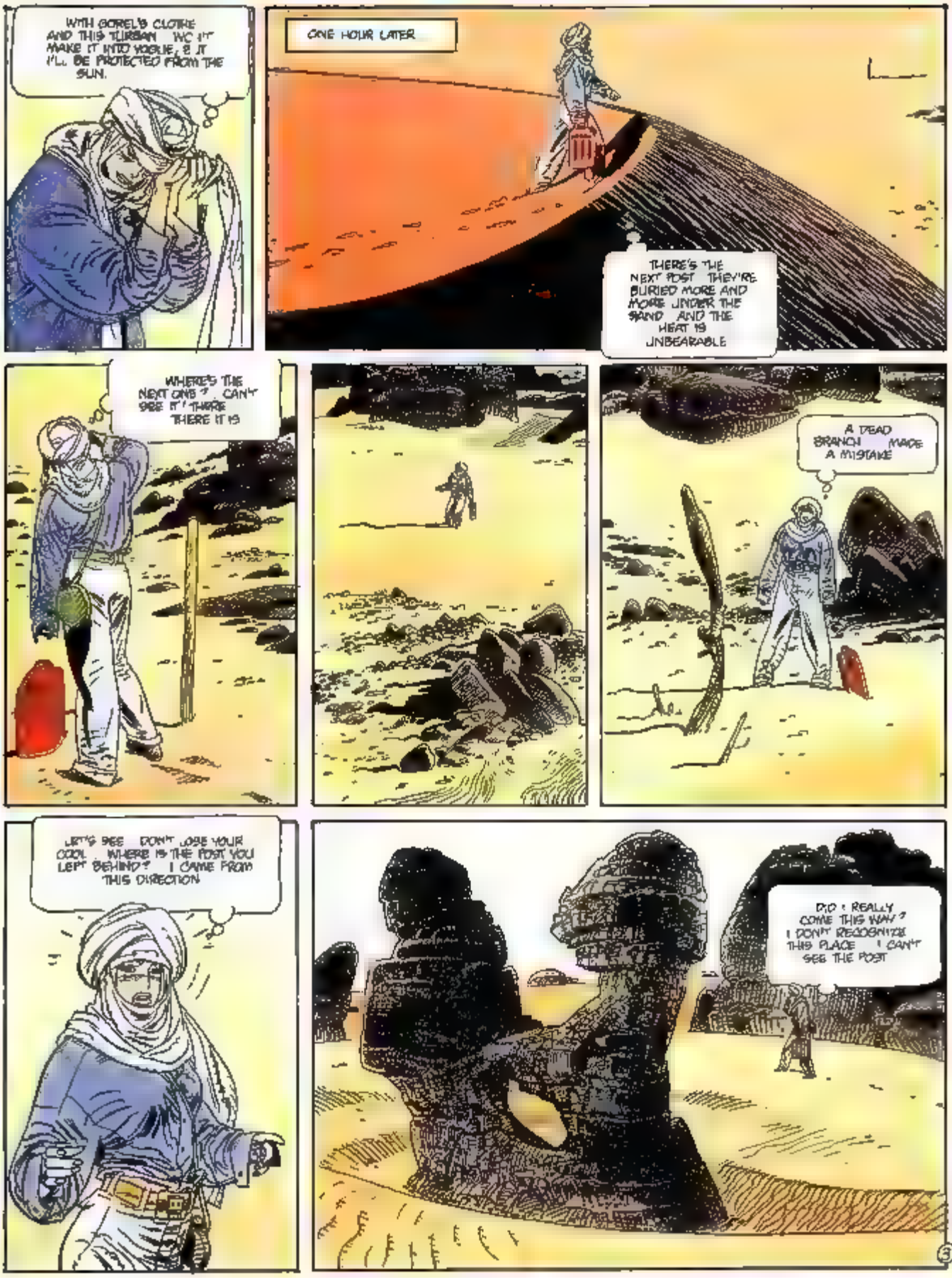
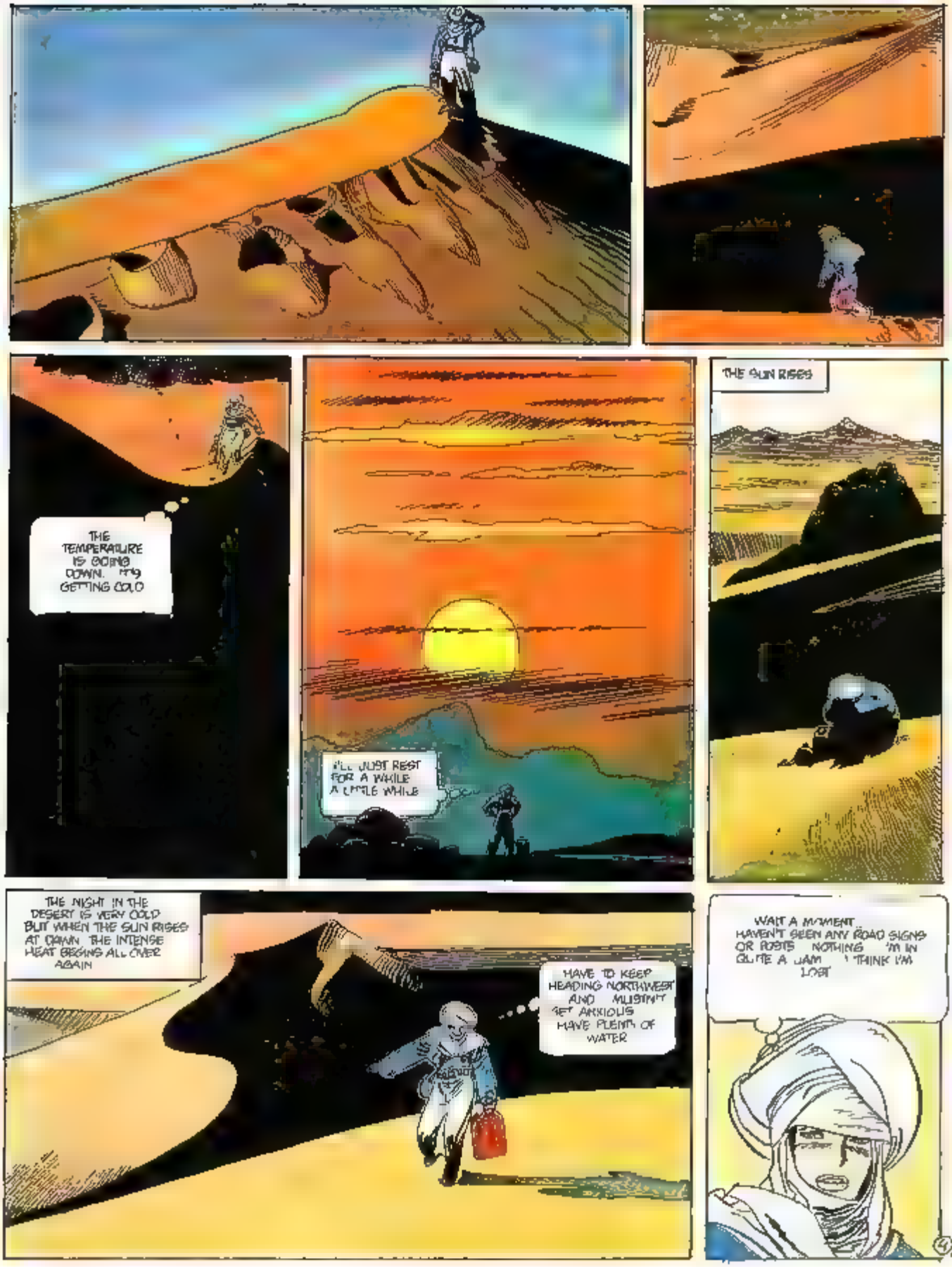
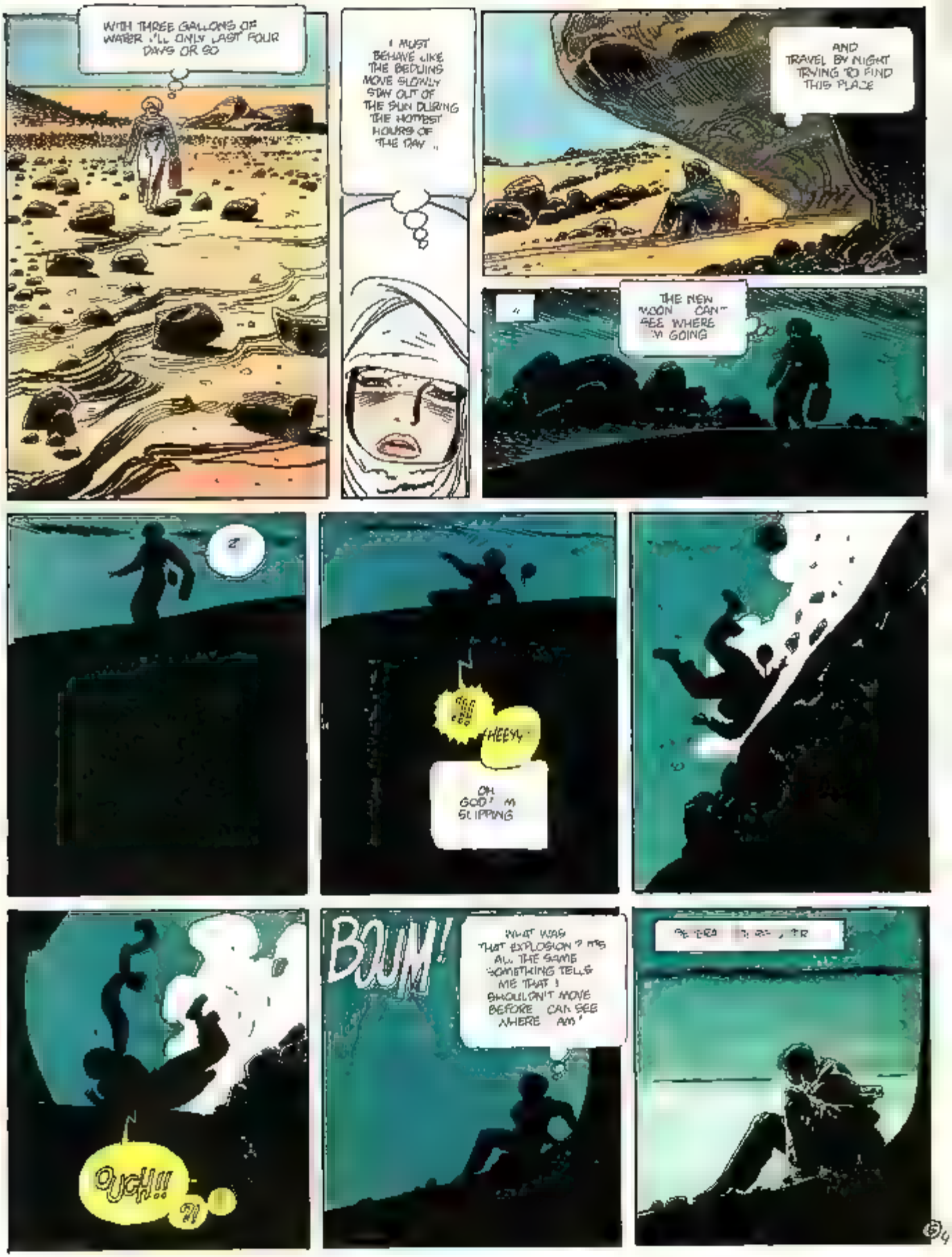


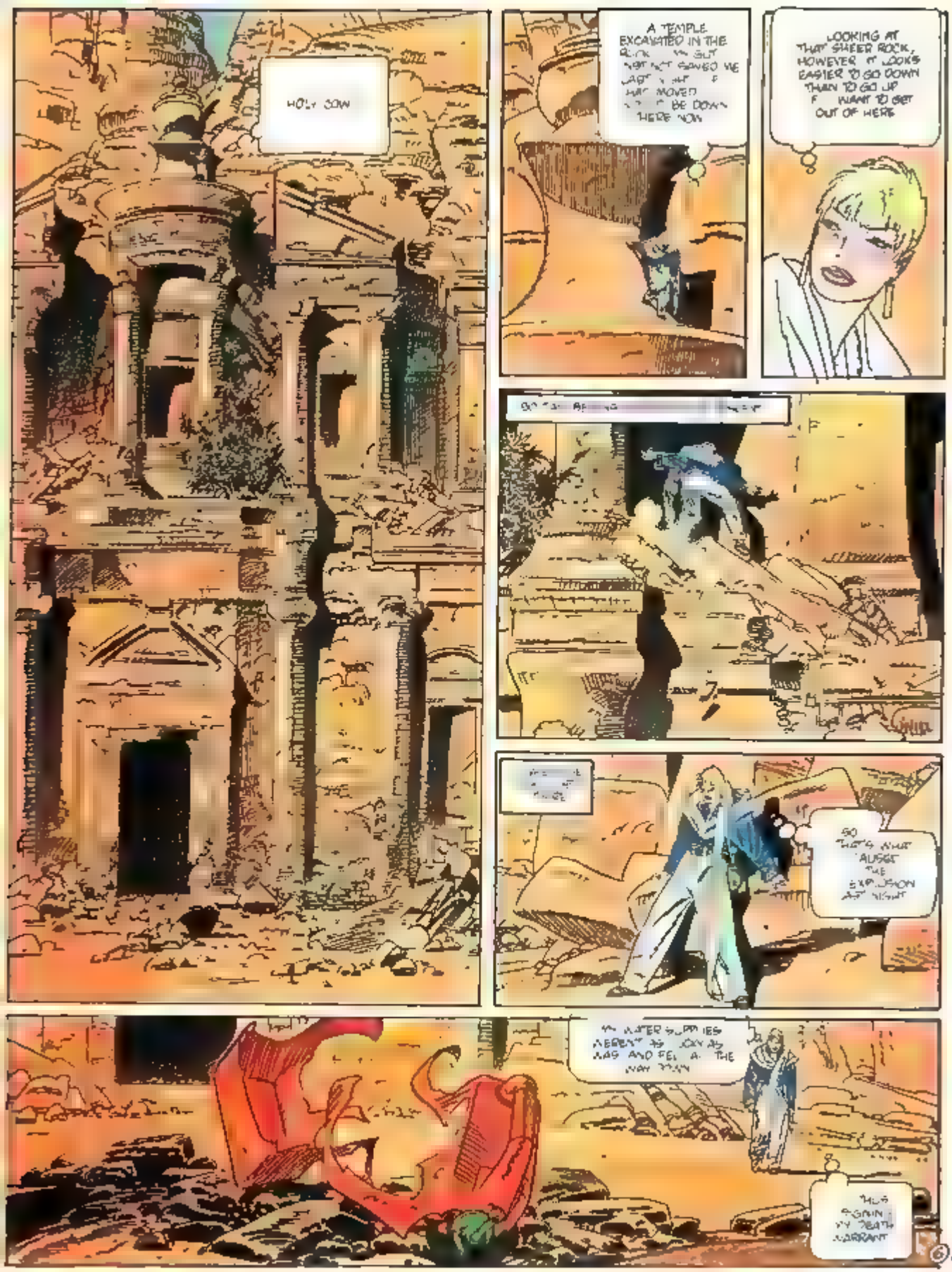


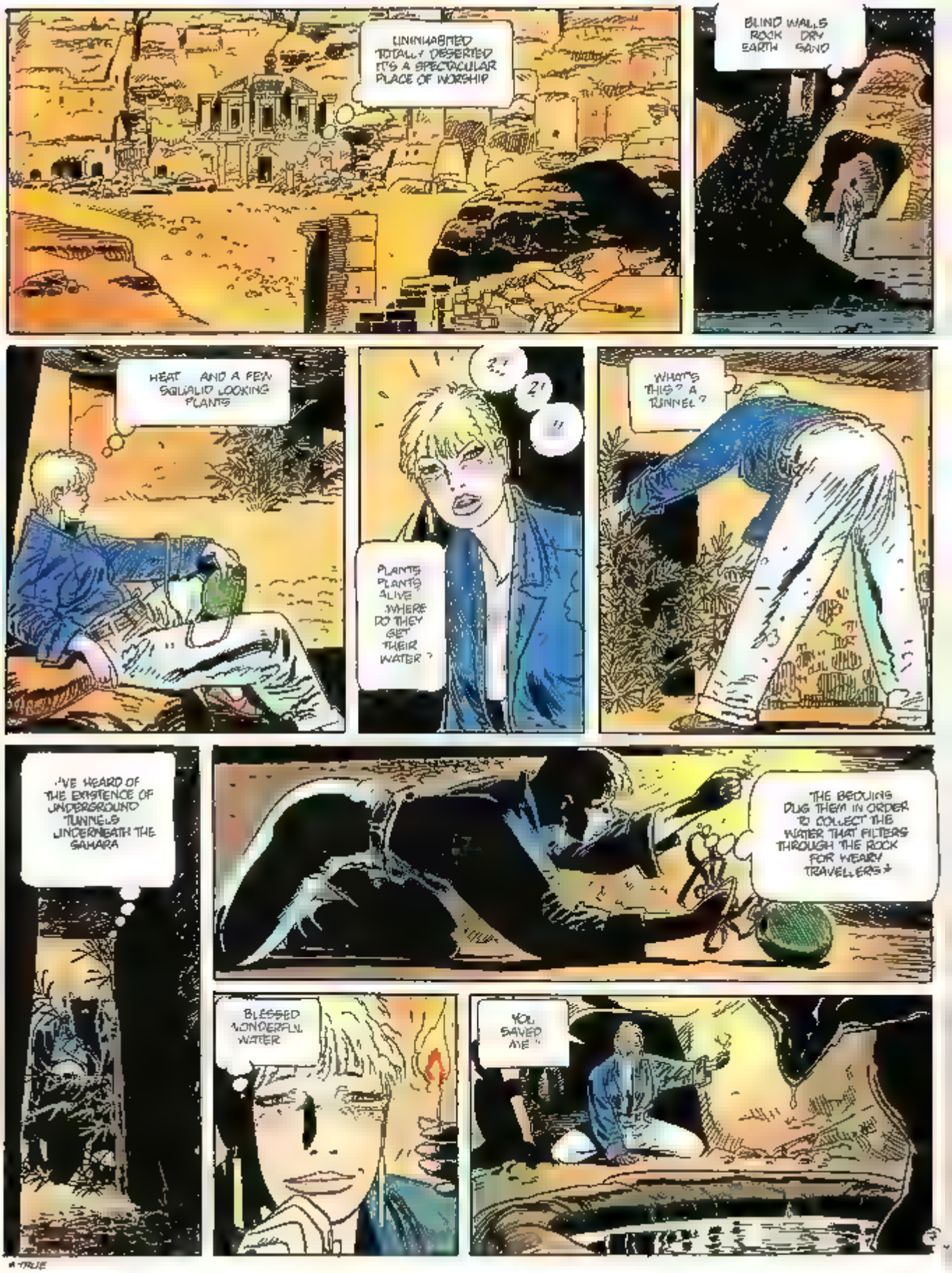

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST SAND ON THE ROAD
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE POSTS ARE THERE IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW WHERE THE ROAD IS UNDER THE SAND.
IF I TRY TO GO ON IN THE CAR THE TIRES WILL SPIN AND GET STUCK IN THE SAND AND I'LL BE TRAPPED WHAT A DRAG!
I'VE GOT TO GIVE THIS SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT. I COULD, OF COURSE, TURN AND GO BACK TO WAKHLA.
BUT I'D FEEL JUST AS TRAPPED THERE AS HERE. AND WHIRLPOOL AND QUASOL WILL KEEP ON GOING WITH THEIR BOMB OR IF THEY DON'T, THE PALESTINIANS WILL.
WOW! THE SUN IS REALLY HOT
OUCH! THE CAR HAS TURNED INTO AN OVEN
I'VE DRIVEN MORE THAN TWO HOURS ALREADY SO
THE PLACE THAT GORBI WAS TALKING ABOUT CANNOT BE MORE THAN FIFTEEN MILES OR SO AWAY. EVEN WITH THIS HEAT, THE THREE GALLONS OF WATER I HAVE WILL BE ENOUGH
AND IF I FOLLOW THE POSTS IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN EIGHT OR TEN HOURS TO GET THERE


WITH BOREL'S CLOTHE AND THIS TURBAN WE IT MAKE IT INTO YOBLIE, & IT I'LL BE PROTECTED FROM THE SUN.
ONE HOUR LATER
THERE'S THE NEXT POST THEY'RE BURIED MORE AND MORE UNDER THE SAND AND THE HEAT IS UNBEARABLE
WHERE'S THE NEXT ONE ? CAN'T SEE IT ! THERE THERE IT IS
A DEAD BRANCH MADE A MISTAKE
LET'S SEE DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL WHERE IS THE POST YOU LEFT BEHIND ? I CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION
DID I REALLY COME THIS WAY ? I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE I CAN'T SEE THE POST
34

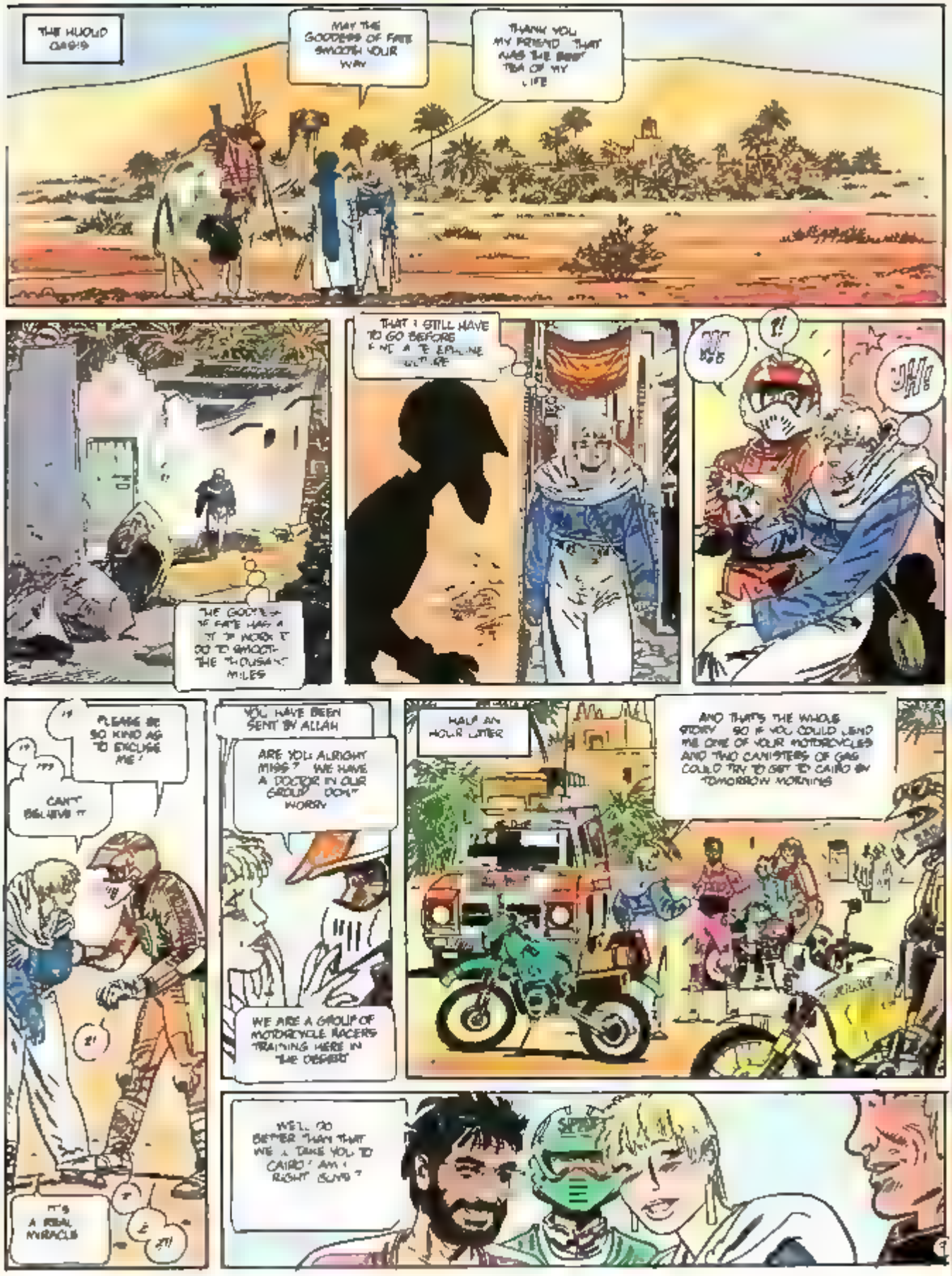

THE TEMPERATURE IS GOING DOWN. I'M GETTING COLD
I'LL JUST REST FOR A WHILE A LITTLE WHILE
THE SUN RISES
THE NIGHT IN THE DESERT IS VERY COLD BUT WHEN THE SUN RISES AT DAWN THE INTENSE HEAT BEGINS ALL OVER AGAIN
HAVE TO KEEP HEADING NORTHWEST AND MUSTN'T GET ANXIOUS HAVE PLENTY OF WATER
WAIT A MOMENT... HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ROAD SIGNS OR POSTS NOTHING I'M IN QUITE A JAM I THINK I'M LOST

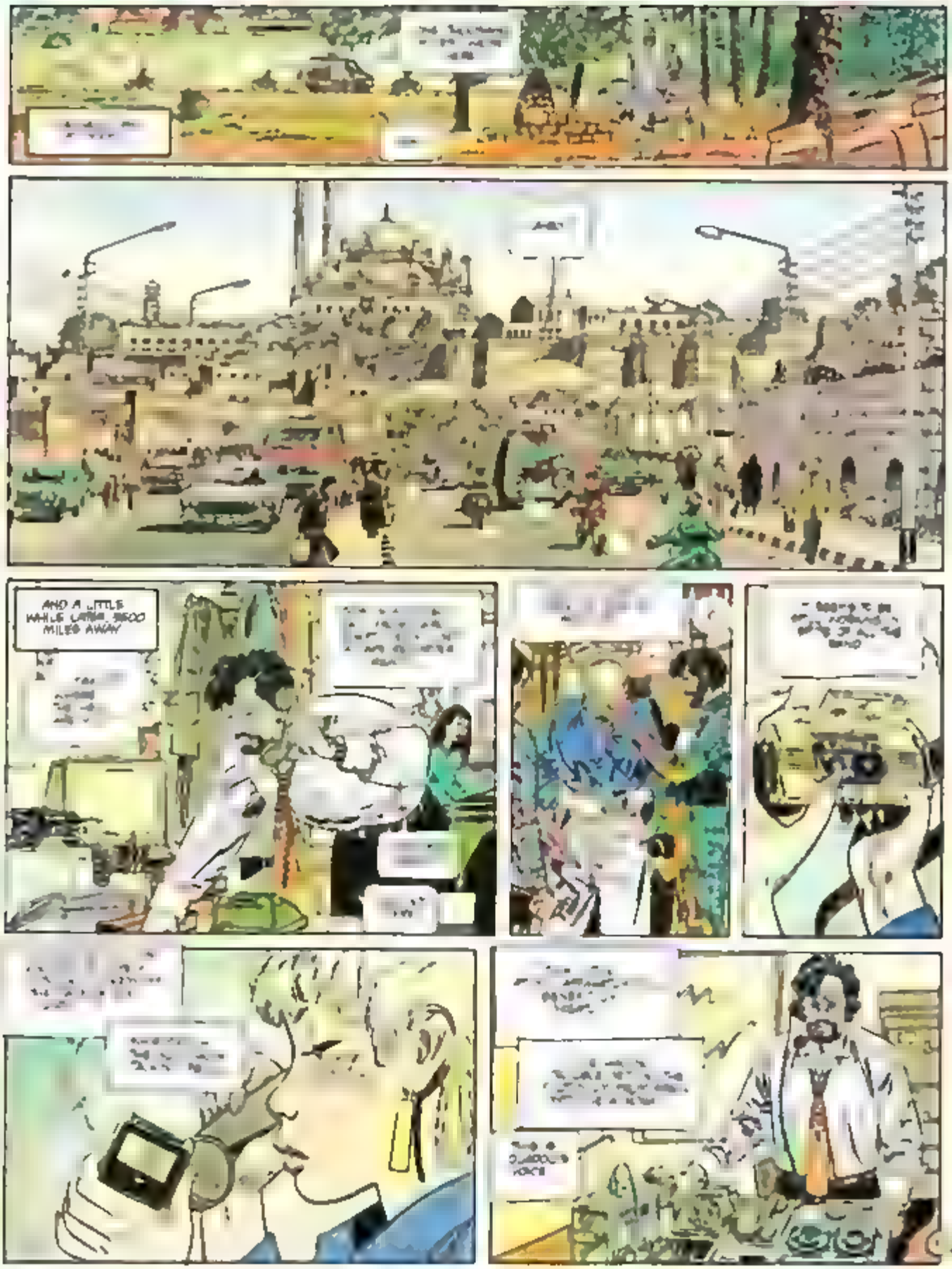

WITH THREE GALLONS OF WATER I'LL ONLY LAST FOUR DAYS OR SO
I MUST BEHAVE LIKE THE BEDUINS MOVE SLOWLY STAY OUT OF THE SUN DURING THE HOTTEST HOURS OF THE DAY ..
AND TRAVEL BY NIGHT TRYING TO FIND THIS PLACE
THE NEW MOON CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING
HEEYY
OH GOD! I'M SLIPPING
OUCH!!
BOUM!
WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION ? IT'S ALL THE SAME SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT I SHOULDN'T MOVE BEFORE I CAN SEE WHERE I AM!

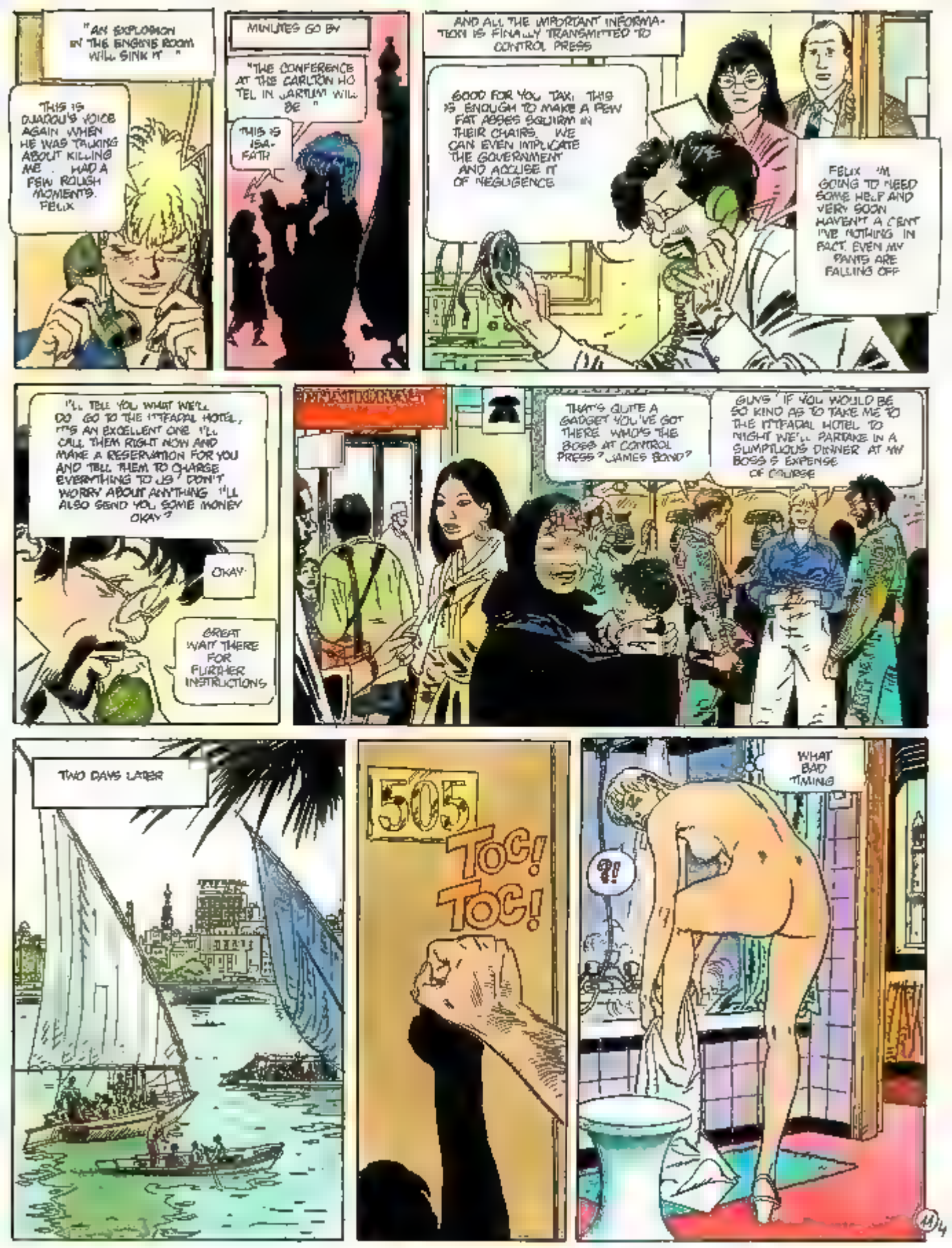

HOLY SON
A TEMPLE EXCAVATED IN THE
LOOKING AT THAT SHEER ROCK, HOWEVER IT LOOKS EASIER TO GO DOWN THAN TO GO UP I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE
SO THAT'S WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION LAST NIGHT
THIS AGAIN IS MY DEATH WARRANT
64

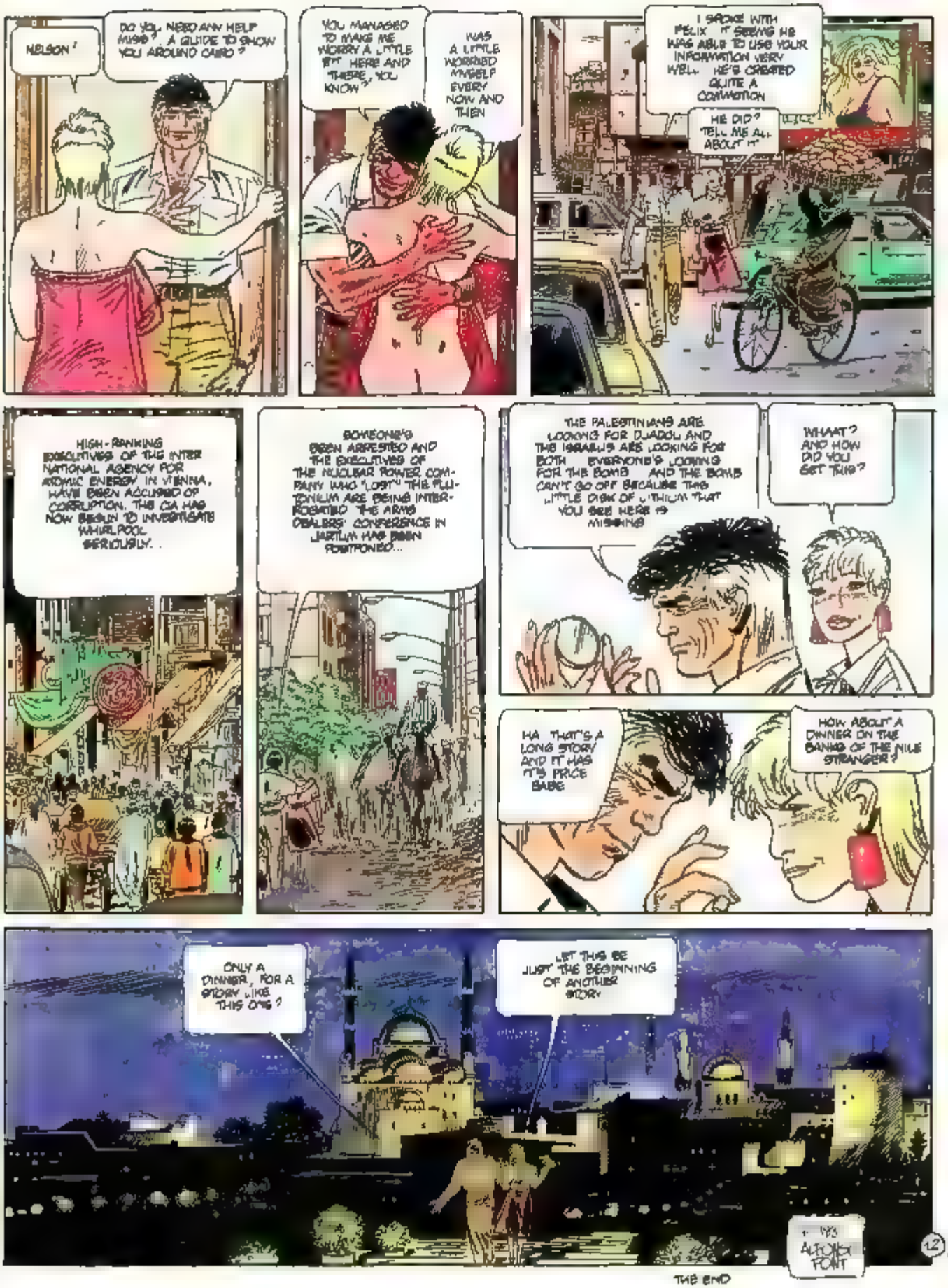

UNINHABITED TOTALLY DESERTED IT'S A SPECTACULAR PLACE OF WORSHIP
BLIND WALLS ROCK DRY EARTH SAND
HEAT AND A FEW SQUALID LOOKING PLANTS
?!
?
!
PLANTS PLANTS ALIVE WHERE DO THEY GET THEIR WATER ?
WHAT'S THIS? A TUNNEL?
I'VE HEARD OF THE EXISTENCE OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS UNDERNEATH THE SAHARA
THE BEDUINS DUG THEM IN ORDER TO COLLECT THE WATER THAT FILTERS THROUGH THE ROCK FOR WEARY TRAVELLERS
BLESSED WONDERFUL WATER
YOU SAVED ME !
TRUE

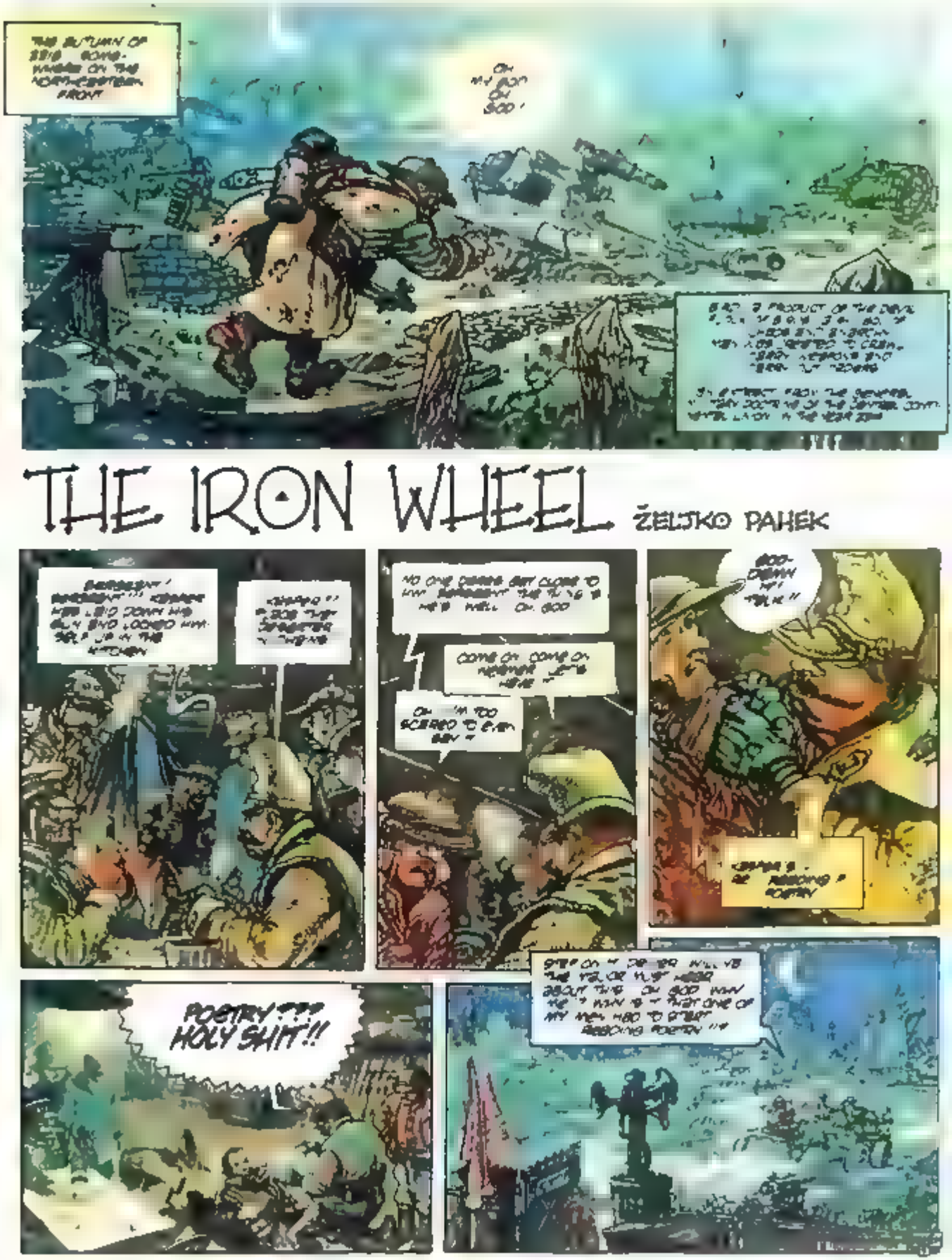
AND IT'S SO COOL AND FRESH!
AAAF
IH.
WAS IT YOU WHO LET THAT CONTAINER OF WATER FALL? NON AFRICANS SHOULD NOT COME TO THE DESERT BY THEMSELVES THEY'RE SO AWKWARD "TEA"
THREE LITTLE CUPS THAT'S CUSTOMARY ISN'T IT?
YES THAT'S THE TRADITIONAL WAY THE FIRST IS BITTER THE SECOND A LITTLE SWEETER AND THE THIRD IS SWEET
AND WHY ISN'T THERE A FOURTH?
ONLY WHEN THERE ARE CHILDREN AROUND AND TEA IS SERVED VERY SWEET OR WHEN YOU WANT TO TELL AN ADULT THAT THEIR PRESENCE IS UNWANTED
DID NOT INTEND TO BOTHER ANYONE
WAS ONLY THINKING OF GIVING YOU THREE CUPS BUT TELL ME WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN THE DESERT?
AN EXIT! PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED YOUR LAND IS ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS BUT I HAVE VERY GOOD REASONS FOR WANTING TO GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IT'S A LONG STORY
LOVE STORIES ONE CAN ALWAYS LEARN SOMETHING NEW TELL ME YOURS WHILE I TAKE YOU TO THE OASIS OF HUDUD
8/4


THE WOULD GIVE
MAY THE GODDESS OF FATE SMOOTH YOUR WAY
THANK YOU MY FRIEND THAT WAS THE BEST TEA OF MY LIFE
THE GODDESS OF FATE HAS A WAY TO WORK IT DO TO SMOOTH THE THOUSAND MILES
THAT I STILL HAVE TO GO BEFORE I'M A TE EPALINE
"!!"
"HA!"
"PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO EXCUSE ME"
CAN'T BELIEVE IT
IT'S A REAL MIRACLE
YOU HAVE BEEN SENT BY ALLAH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT MISS? WE HAVE A DOCTOR IN OUR GROUP DON'T WORRY
WE ARE A GROUP OF MOTORCYCLE RACERS TRAINING HERE IN THE DESERT
HALF AN HOUR LATER
AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY SO IF YOU COULD LEND ME ONE OF YOUR MOTORCYCLES AND TWO CANISTERS OF GAS COULD TRY TO GET TO CAIRO BY TOMORROW MORNING
WELL DO BETTER THAN THAT WE'LL TAKE YOU TO CAIRO! AM I RIGHT GUYS?


AND A LITTLE WHILE LATER, 3500 MILES AWAY


"AN EXPLOSION IN THE ENGINE ROOM WILL SINK IT "
THIS IS DJADJOU'S VOICE AGAIN WHEN HE WAS TALKING ABOUT KILLING ME . HAD A FEW ROUGH MOMENTS. FELIX
MINUTES GO BY
"THE CONFERENCE AT THE CARLTON HOTEL IN KARTUM WILL BE "
THIS IS ISA-FATH
AND ALL THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS FINALLY TRANSMITTED TO CONTROL PRESS
GOOD FOR YOU TAX. THIS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A FEW FAT ASSES SQUIRM IN THEIR CHAIRS. WE CAN EVEN IMPLICATE THE GOVERNMENT AND ACCUSE IT OF NEGLIGENCE
FELIX I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP AND VERY SOON HAVEN'T A CENT I'VE NOTHING IN FACT EVEN MY PANTS ARE FALLING OFF
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE'LL DO GO TO THE ITTEADAL HOTEL, IT'S AN EXCELLENT ONE. I'LL CALL THEM RIGHT NOW AND MAKE A RESERVATION FOR YOU AND TELL THEM TO CHARGE EVERYTHING TO US. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING I'LL ALSO SEND YOU SOME MONEY OKAY?
OKAY
GREAT WAIT THERE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
THAT'S QUITE A GADGET YOU'VE GOT THERE. WHO'S THE BOSS AT CONTROL PRESS? JAMES BOND?
GUYS IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO TAKE ME TO THE ITTEADAL HOTEL TO NIGHT WE'LL PARTAKE IN A SUMPTUOUS DINNER AT MY BOSS'S EXPENSE OF COURSE
TWO DAYS LATER
505
TOC! TOC!
WHAT BAD TIMING
?!

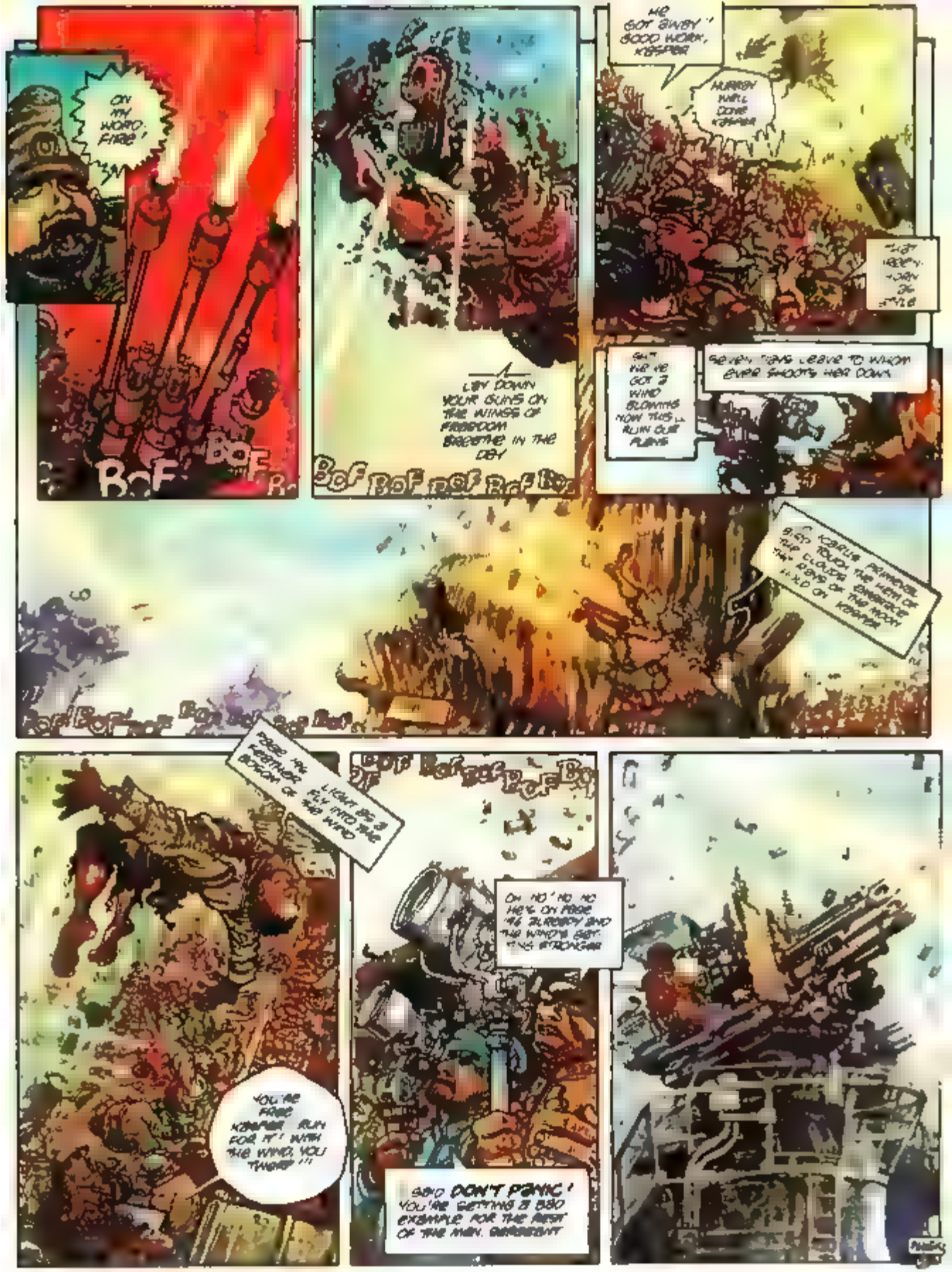

NELSON!
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP MIND? A GUIDE TO SHOW YOU AROUND CAIRO?
YOU MANAGED TO MAKE ME WORRY A LITTLE BIT HERE AND THERE, YOU KNOW?
WAS A LITTLE WORRIED MYSELF EVERY NOW AND THEN
I SPOKE WITH FELIX IT SEEMS HE WAS ABLE TO USE YOUR INFORMATION VERY WELL. HE'S CREATED QUITE A COMMOTION
HE DID? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT
HIGH-RANKING EXECUTIVES OF THE INTER NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ATOMIC ENERGY IN VIENNA, HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION. THE CIA HAS NOW BEGUN TO INVESTIGATE WHIRLPOOL SERIOUSLY..
SOMEONE'S BEEN ARRESTED AND THE EXECUTIVES OF THE NUCLEAR POWER COMPANY WHO "LOST" THE PLUTONIUM ARE BEING INTERROGATED THE ARMS DEALERS' CONFERENCE IN JARTUM HAS BEEN POSTPONED...
THE PALESTINIANS ARE LOOKING FOR DJADOU AND THE ISRAELIS ARE LOOKING FOR BOTH EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR THE BOMB AND THE BOMB CAN'T GO OFF BECAUSE THE LITTLE DISK OF LITHIUM THAT YOU SEE HERE IS MISSING
WHAAT? AND HOW DID YOU GET THIS?
HA THAT'S A LONG STORY AND IT HAS IT'S PRICE BABE
HOW ABOUT A DINNER ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE STRANGER?
ONLY A DINNER, FOR A STORY LIKE THIS ONE?
LET THIS BE JUST THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER STORY
+ 1983 ALTAMIRA FOAM
12
THE END


THE AUTUMN OF 1918. SOMEWHERE ON THE NORTH-EASTERN FRONT
OH MY GOD OH GOD!
THE IRON WHEEL
ŽELJKO PAHEK
BARRAGE! BARRAGE!!! KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND ONLY STAND UP WHEN YOU'RE IN THE KITCHEN
NO ONE COMES BUT CLOSE TO HIM DURING THE BARRAGE. HE'S HELL ON GOD
COME ON, COME ON, NEIGHBOR, LET'S HAVE A
OH, I'M TOO SCARED TO EVEN SAY IT
GOD-DAMN MY FELLOW
CAPTAIN'S BE MISSING, CAPTAIN
POETRY??? HOLY SHIT!!
STEP ON IT, DEVIL DOG, WE'VE THE VILLAGE TO GET ABOUT THIS. OH GOD MAN HE'S MAN'S - THAT ONE OF MY MEN HAD TO START READING POETRY!!!

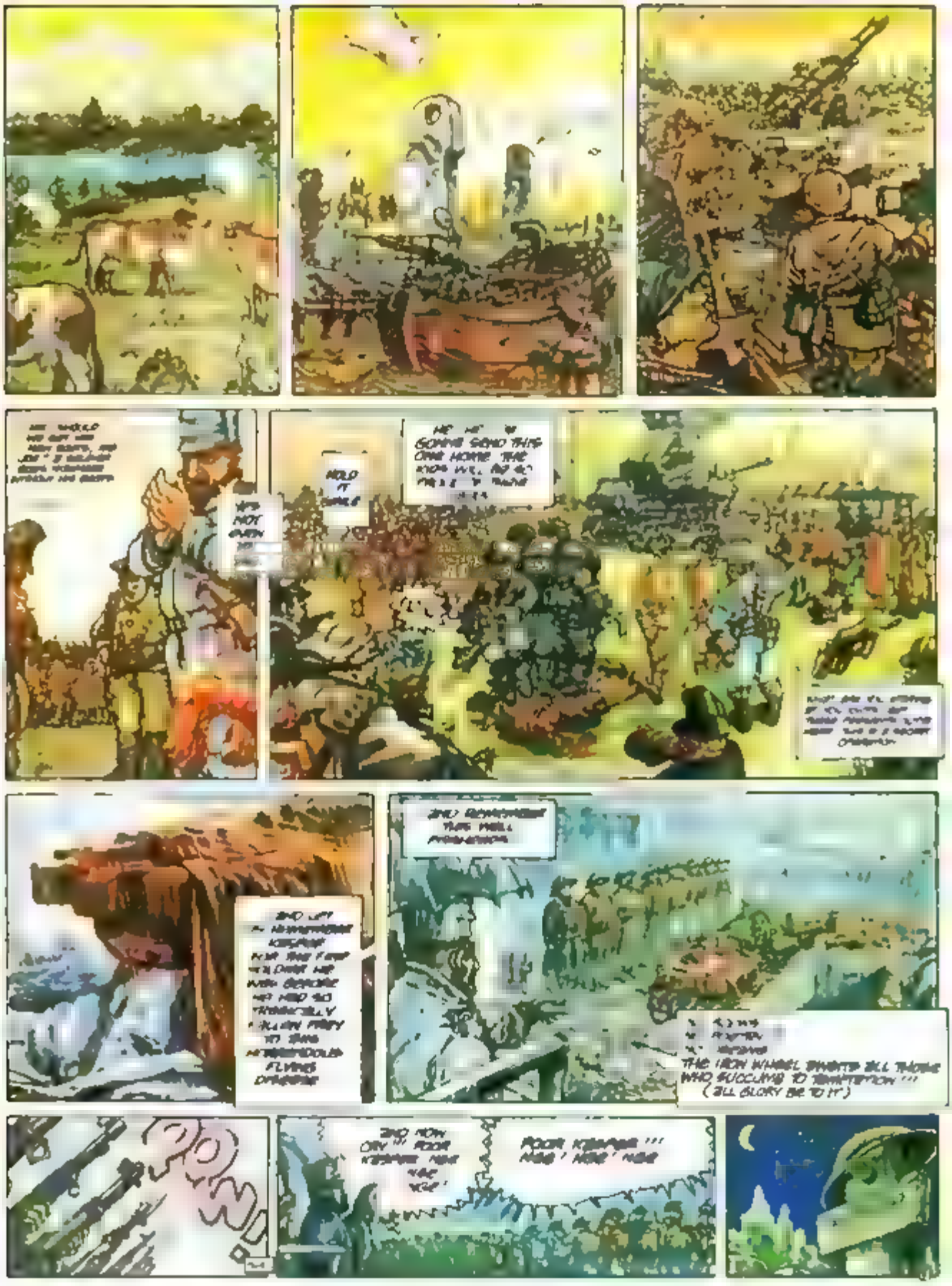
GENTLEMEN, ALLIES! OPERATION "IRON WHEEL" HAS JUST STARTED. THIS IS OUR ANSWER TO THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE
WE'VE MANAGED TO CONFISCATE A COPY OF THEIR SECRET AND DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON. A WEAPON THAT IS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE ENTIRE WORLD...
HA! HA! HA! A SECRET DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON?! HO! HO! BUT THOSE TURDS ARE SO STUPID THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY INVENT A WEAPON OF ANY KIND
HERE "THIS IS IT! THE COLLECTED WORKS OF AN UNKNOWN 19TH CENTURY POET THREE HUNDRED PAGES OF PURE VENOM
OOF!
THIS BOOK?? BUT THIS IS JUST ORDINARY POETRY! JUST A LOAD OF MEANINGLESS VERSE! THE CALL OF THE SPARROW AND THE SOBBING NIGHT OF LONELINESS HO! HO!
IT'S NOT JUST HARMLESS VERSE, MAJOR! THOSE WORDS BRING ABOUT LASTING CHANGES IN THE ORGANISM!!
BOM
AND THEN, BRING DEATH
"O SPARROW, SISTER OF MINE" HO! HO! I KNEW IT! THIS IS SO FUNNY! IT'S KILLING ME! HA! HA! THEY WANT US ALL TO DIE LAUGHING?! HO! HO!
BOM
BOM
BOM
BOHH..! I...I'M FLYING!!!
THIS IS TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE! BRING ME DOWN
OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! I DON'T WANT TO BE A BIRD! HELP! HELP!
ANY QUESTIONS?
SKIP!
KNOCK KNOCK
MAJOR! MAJOR!
SKIP! SKIP! IS THERE A CURE FOR THIS DISEASE?!
YES BIRD, THERE IS
DEATH!

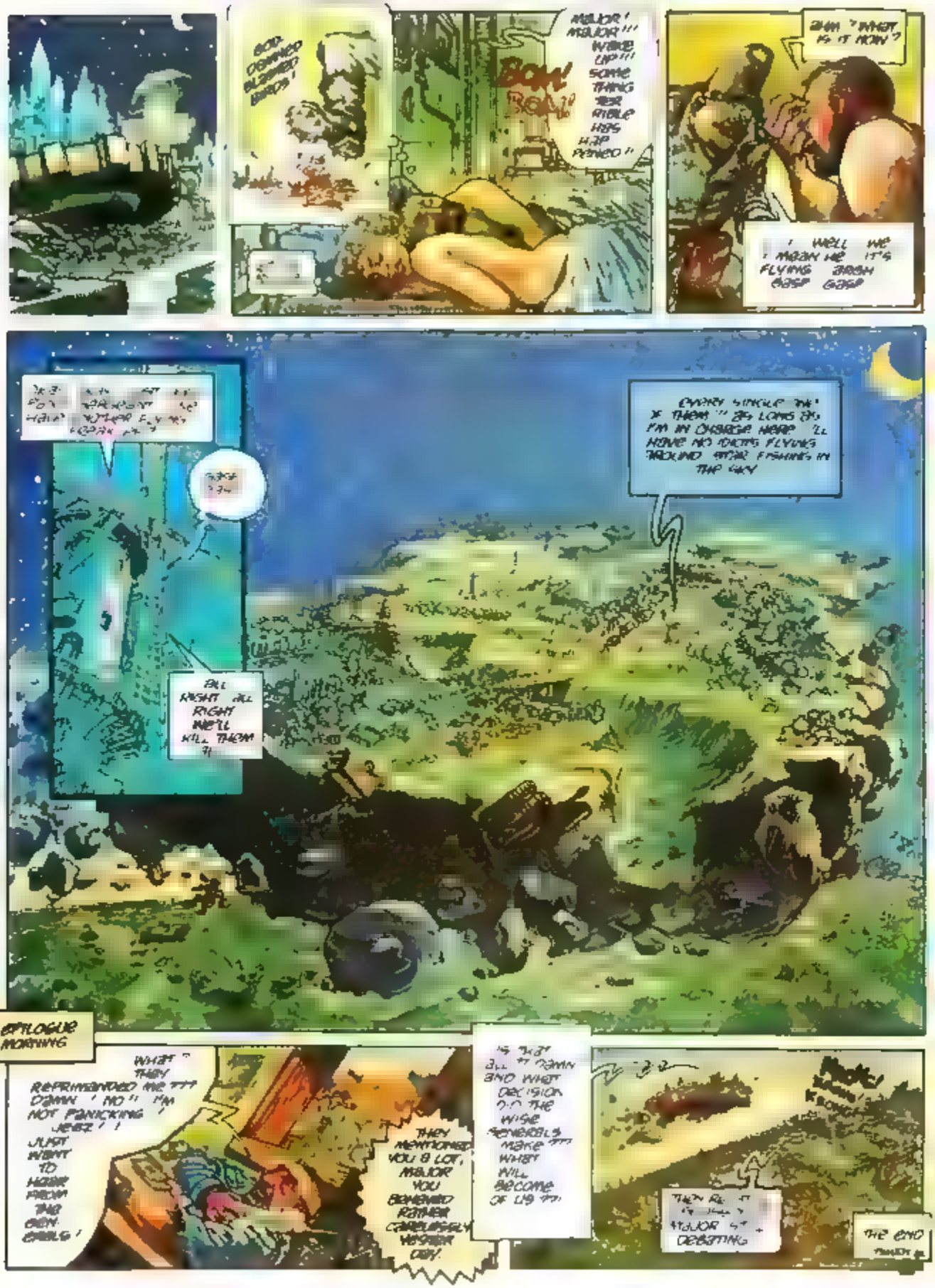
QUICK !!! BRING THE IRON WHEEL !
MAJOR ! MAJOR !
HEY WAKE UP MAN !!! MAJOR MAJOR
NO NOT THE WHEEL OH NOT THE WHEEL
OH WHAT A NIGHT MARE GOOD THING YOU WOKE ME UP
ZZZ ZZZ
MAJOR ! A GREAT TRAGEDY ! WE'RE IN DEEP SHIT ! IT HAPPENED ! THE THING WE FEARED MOST
OH MYEH IT ! HORRIBLE !!! THE SUN'S GONE OUT
NO, MAJOR IT'S NOT THE SUN IT'S K KASPER !
KASPER ?
YES KASPER'S READING POETRY
OH JESUS !!!
WOOEEEEEEEEEEE
DAMN !!! THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF THEY'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO INSERT THAT BOOK WITHIN OUR RANKS !!! AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE AT LEAST A QUARTER OF OUR SOLDIERS ARE LITERATE
WAS KASPER READING THOSE CURSED POEMS BLOJO ?
YES SIR IN THE KITCHEN ! AND BOY, WAS HE SHOUTING BUT THE COOKS GOT AWAY JUST IN TIME ONLY PRUNEBRAIN ROGER AND DUMB GERRY STAYED WITH HIM, BUT THEY'RE SAFE, TOO ROGER'S DEAF FROM A GRENADE AND GERRY WAS BORN DEAF
GOOD SO IT'S ONLY KASPER MAYBE WE COULD STOP THE WORST FROM HAPPENING YET

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
MUCH GITH TOUGH HARD REAL SOLDIERS HERE!
YES MEN X STEEL MELOS
AND NOBODY PANIC AT ALL THAT CLEAR?!
BUST IT NOW HAVE TO MAKE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION
AND FOR GOD'S SAKE GET ON BOW WHEEL A BIG ONE
OH DON'T PANIC OH DON'T PANIC YOU MUST THINK
IRISH
HARRY'S KOMIN'?
CRUSH
BUT WE'RE TOO LATE
SOME HEAVY KINDA SHITTIN' WE'RE IN HERE ON
KEEPING IT TO HIM POOR GUY KIDS REBOUND THAT OL BOOM HE'S A BOMBER THEN ROBIN SHE REAL INTOXICATING THE BRAIN SPECIALTIES TO MUCH ONE-TRICK, AND THEY MAKES THE BODY SHIT. GRAVITATIONAL AND UP IT GOES FOR GOOD


ON MY WORD, FIRE!
BOF BOF
LAY DOWN YOUR GUNS ON THE WINGS OF FREEDOM BREATHE IN THE SKY
BOF BOF BOF BOF BOF
HE GOT AWAY! GOOD WORK, KEEPER
HURRY UP! I'LL COVER KEEPER
SHIT HE'S GOT A WIND BLOWING NOW THAT'LL RUIN OUR PLANS
SEVEN YEARS LEAVE TO WHOM EVER SHOOTS HER DOWN
BLOOD KOBOLD DRAMOSIL TOUCH THE HEM OF THE CLOUDS EMBRACE THE LIGHTNING OF THE MOON KEEPER
FIRE! THE WEATHER BECOME OF THE WIND
LIGHT AS A FLY INTO THE WIND
YOU'RE FIRE KEEPER! RUN FOR IT! WITH THE WIND, YOU THERE!!!
OH NO! NO NO HE'S ON FIRE HE'S ALREADY SAID THE WIND'S GOT TOO STRONG!
SHIT DON'T PANIC! YOU'RE GETTING A BAD EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THE MEN, OBVIOUSLY

AUGH!!
KAG


HOLD IT GIRLS
THIS IRON WHEEL SHATTER ALL THOSE WHO SUCCUMB TO TEMPTATION !!!
(ALL GLORY BE TO IT)
POOR KEEPERS !!!


GOD DAMNED PLANTED BIRDS!
MAJOR! MAJOR!!! WAKE UP!!! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS JUST HAPPENED!!
BOW BOW!!
DAMN! WHAT IS IT NOW?
WELL WE MEAN WE IT'S FLYING BIRDS GOSH GOSH
OKAY SINCE THEY'RE THEM!! IT'S LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE HERE I'LL HAVE NO FACTS FLYING AROUND WHILE I'M FISHING IN THE SKY
ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT WE'LL KILL THEM!!
EPILOGUE MORNING
WHAT? THEY REPRIMANDED ME??? DAMN! NO!! I'M NOT PANICKING JEEZ!! JUST WENT TO HEAR FROM THE OLD GOATS!
THEY MENTIONED YOU A LOT, MAJOR YOU BEHAVED RATHER CARELESSLY YESTERDAY!
IS THAT ALL?? DAMN AND WHAT DECISION DID THE WISE GENERALS MAKE??? WHAT WILL BECOME OF US???
THEN RE-? MAJOR-? DEBATING
THE END

A

Ranxerox T-shirt Made of 100% cotton with a reinforced neck. Deep armholes, extra body length and fullness. White with design in full color. **$12.95**

small medium
large ex-large

B

The **original Heavy Metal T-shirt** comes in red or black and is made of cotton-blend. The essential HM product. **$8.00**

small medium
large red black

C

SHOOOM! Rocco Vargas's manservant **Samson** and his little robot pal come alive on this new eight color T-shirt. More coffee, Samson, more coffee! **$12.95**

small medium
large ex-large

D

Our latest and greatest product: **the Heavy Metal all cotton sweatshirt**. Wear it to the gym or to your fave dance spot and watch those color as melt away while maintaining your ultra-chic image. **$15.95**

small medium
large
black white gray

E

Heavy Metal's pride and joy, our silver satin-like **jacket** equipped with a cotton lining, and front pockets, too. Hipper than a Stones '72 tour jacket. **$35.00**

small medium
large

F

Heavy Metal's phosphorescent T-shirt. This black all-cotton tee is available in sleeveless or regular-style. Wear it to bed and you won't need a night-light to find your way to the bathroom. **$9.00**

small medium
large sleeveless
regular

G

From Torres's *Saxxon*, **THE FAN** is lost in a crowd and found on this ten-color tee. **$12.95**

small medium
large ex-large

H

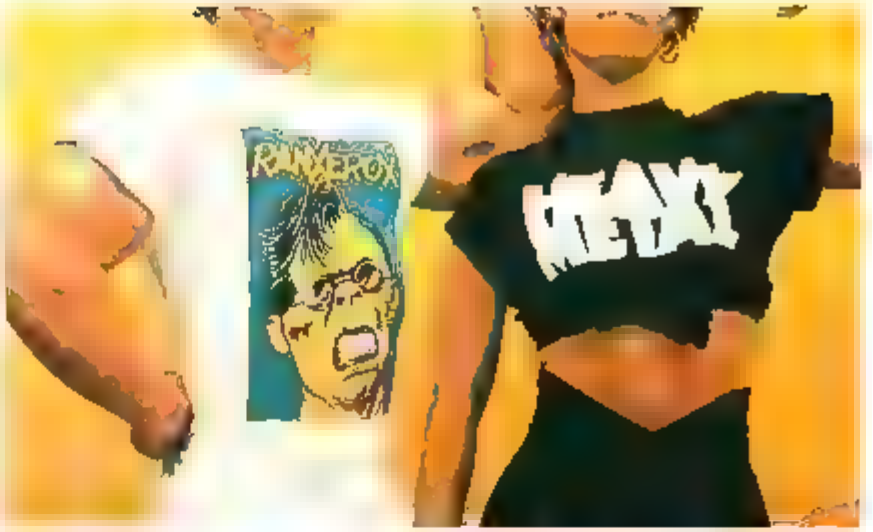
Beautiful splash panel from the exciting Torres series *Saxxon*. **Rocco Vargas** dances all over your heart in this seven-color T-shirt. **$12.95**

small medium
large ex-large

I

Bernie Wrightson's **Hanover Fiste** and his ne'er-do-well accomplice, **Captain Sternn**. You've seen them in the magazine, you've seen them in the *Heavy Metal* movie, now see them coming and going. This durable four-color cotton **T-shirt** is a must for summer. **$9.95**

small medium
large



A B

C D

B E

F G

H I

PUT A HARD BODY IN A METAL SHIRT

You can now smack **Ranxerox's** pretty puss right on your lapel with this handsome **color pin. $6.00,** includes postage and handling. Don't leave home without it!
Ranxerox pin.

Keep your pants up with a **Heavy Metal belt buckle.** It's 3½" x 2" and will fit any standard belt. Also deflects alien laser guns. **$13.95.**

You don't have to have a perfect body to look spectacular in stylish, incredibly comfortable Heavy Metal leisure wear. Be ready for anything in Heavy Metal T-shirts, jackets, sweats, and sweatshirts, and you never know what kind of hard bodies you might find close to your own.

Check off what you like and how many you want. Include size and color. Add up what it costs. (Add 8 ¼% sales tax if you live in New York State.) Write a check or money order for the total, put it in an envelope with the ad, and send it to:

Heavy Metal, Dept.3 / 90155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ ZIP _____

Total amount enclosed $ _____

Signature _____

Credit card orders: Only on orders of $20.00 or more.

MasterCard#_____ Exp. Date _____

VISA#_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please enclose $1.50 per tee-shirt for shipping.

If you don't wish to cut the page out, but do wish to order, please print or type all applicable info on a separate piece of paper, and enclose it with a check or money order. After all, you wouldn't take scissors to the Mona Lisa, would you?

IT'LL ALWAYS BAFFLE ME.. EMIL HAS SUCH A BRILLIANT MIND, YET SUCH A LIMITED CAPACITY FOR HUMAN EMOTION.. HE DISCOVERS THE BIGGEST SURGICAL BREAK THROUGH IN HISTORY, AND ONLY RICH SLEAZOIDS CAN BENEFIT FROM IT.. SIGH..

STILL, IT SHOULD SCARCELY SURPRISE ME, THE ENTIRE FLOUNDER CLAN ARE DEVOUT BLUE BLOODS. GOD FORBID SOCIAL CONCERNS EVER ENTER THEIR MINDS. I SHOULDN'T TALK, THOUGH I'VE PERFORMED MY SHARE OF THAT OPERATION.. GAD IT'S SO SIMPLE YOU COULD TRAIN A SKATING MONKEY TO DO IT! SAD I SHOULD SQUANDER MY OWN BRILLIANCE HERE AT THE INSTITUTE FOR PERENNIAL PERPETUITY OF RICH IDIOTS.

COFFEE, OR FLUKE?

GASP.. JUST A FEW MORE INCHES WHEEZE

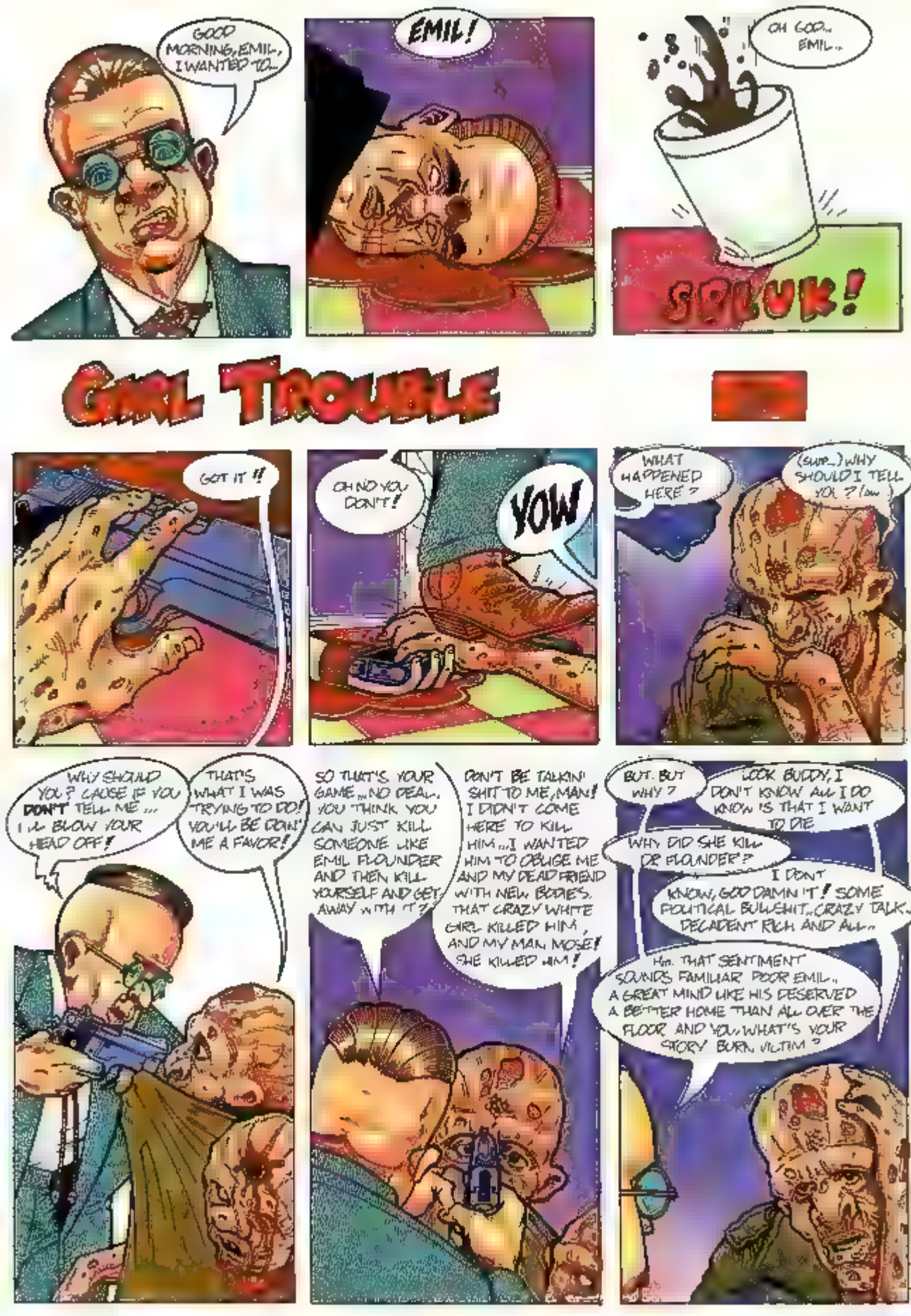
I DON'T KNOW.. DAY IN, DAY OUT NO NEW CHALLENGES PRESENT THEMSELVES I CAN DO THE BRAIN TRANSFER OPERATIONS IN MERE MOMENTS

SIP

PUFF.. ALMOST THERE.. MOAN..

IT'S ALL BECOME SO STATIC.. WHATEVER

PLEASE JESUS.. GIMME.. STRENGTH JUST AN INCH OR TWO.. MORE..


GOOD MORNING, EMIL., I WANTED TO...
EMIL!
OH GOD... EMIL..
SPLUK!
GIRL TROUBLE
GOT IT !!
OH NO YOU DON'T!
YOW
WHAT HAPPENED HERE ?
(SUR_) WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU ? (Ow
WHY SHOULD YOU ? CAUSE IF YOU DON'T TELL ME ... I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO! YOU'LL BE DOIN' ME A FAVOR!
SO THAT'S YOUR GAME.. NO DEAL.. YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST KILL SOMEONE LIKE EMIL FLOUNDER AND THEN KILL YOURSELF AND GET AWAY WITH IT ?
DON'T BE TALKIN' SHIT TO ME, MAN! I DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL HIM .. I WANTED HIM TO OBLIGE ME AND MY DEAD FRIEND WITH NEW BODIES. THAT CRAZY WHITE GIRL KILLED HIM, AND MY MAN MOSE! SHE KILLED HIM!
BUT. BUT WHY ?
LOOK BUDDY, I DON'T KNOW ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT I WON'T TO DIE
WHY DID SHE KILL OR FLOUNDER ?
I DON'T KNOW, GOD DAMN IT! SOME POLITICAL BULLSHIT.. CRAZY TALK.. DECADENT RICH AND ALL..
HM. THAT SENTIMENT SOUNDS FAMILIAR POOR EMIL.. A GREAT MIND LIKE HIS DESERVED A BETTER HOME THAN ALL OVER THE FLOOR AND YOU, WHAT'S YOUR STORY BURN VICTIM ?

I'M LUTHER MY LATE FRIEND MOSES AND I WORKED FOR THE HUMAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WE WERE TRAPPED DURING A MELTDOWN AND FUSED TOGETHER WHEN THEY FOUND US THEY THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD, AND THEY FLUSHED US INTO THE RIVER LIKE TRASH
THAT'S UTTERLY FANTASTIC!
YEAH GREAT
NO I MEAN AS A HARD TO FATHOM
AND THIS LITTLE MANIAC TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO ASSASSINATE DR FLOUNDER THESE KIDS TODAY I THOUGHT I WAS BEING PRETTY "WAY OUT" WHEN I DISSECTED HIM SAAY! SHE'S STILL ALIVE!!!
WHAT?!?
YES.. IT'S FAINT BUT THERE IS A PULSE SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE
FOR WHAT?
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY... HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED WHAT IT MIGHT BE LIKE TO BE A TEENAGE GIRL?
WHAT?
LET US NOT FORGET YOU ARE IN AN INSTITUTE THAT SPECIALIZES IN BRAIN SHUFFLING
YOU AIM TO PUT MY BRAIN IN HER HEAD?
AMEN TO THAT! YOU'VE GOT A DEAL DOC!
AND SO IT'S TIME TO GO SLEEPY BO-BO'S NOW LUTHER
WILL THIS HURT?
YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A NEW PERSON WHEN I'M FIN... I SAY GOOD NIGHT
CRUSH
AND NOW THE FUN BEGINS...
IT'S GOOD THAT LUTHER WAS A LOUSY SHOT NO MAJOR DAMAGE TO THE GIRL HE MANAGED TO MISS ALL VITAL ORGANS ROUTINE LASER FILL AND PATCHWORK THEN AS WELL THE WHOLE PROCEDURE SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR

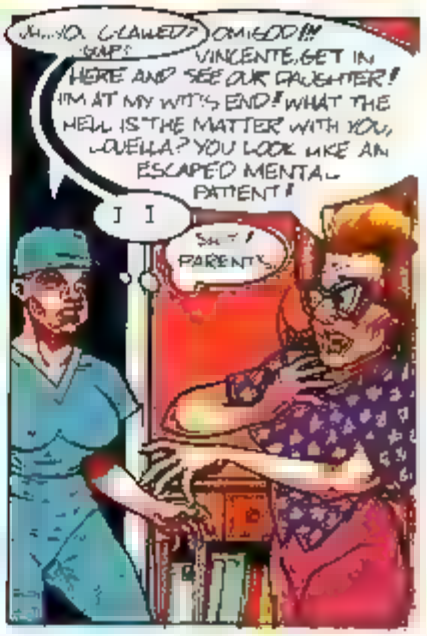
BRIEFLY
LUTHER? LUTHER?
HUH? WHA?
TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW YOU, LUTHER
HOLY SHIT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I CAN'T FUKKIN' BELIEVE IT... NOT WITH MY OWN EYES!
WHICH AN HOUR AGO WERE NOT YOUR EYES... IT'S YOUR BRAIN, BUT THAT'S IT FOR YOUR ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE SOUL, IT'S STILL YOU BUT THE PACKAGE, ALL NEW
I'M TOTALLY GRATEFUL AS HELL, DOC... BUT WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF ALL THIS? I GOTTA KNOW
OH, A FEW THINGS ONE: I DID A FELLOW MAN A GOOD TURN TWO: I WILL NOW GET TO STUDY THE BODIES WHICH YOU PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED
AND THREE A LITTLE EXCITEMENT IN MY LIFE. THINGS HAVE BEEN SO DULL UP 'TIL TODAY. YOU'VE CHANGED ALL THAT NOW THERE'S SOME INTRIGUE BUT BEFORE YOU LEAVE HERE, I'VE GOT A FEW CONDITIONS TO SPELL OUT
OH-OH... HERE IT COMES
NOT REALLY... HEAR ME OUT

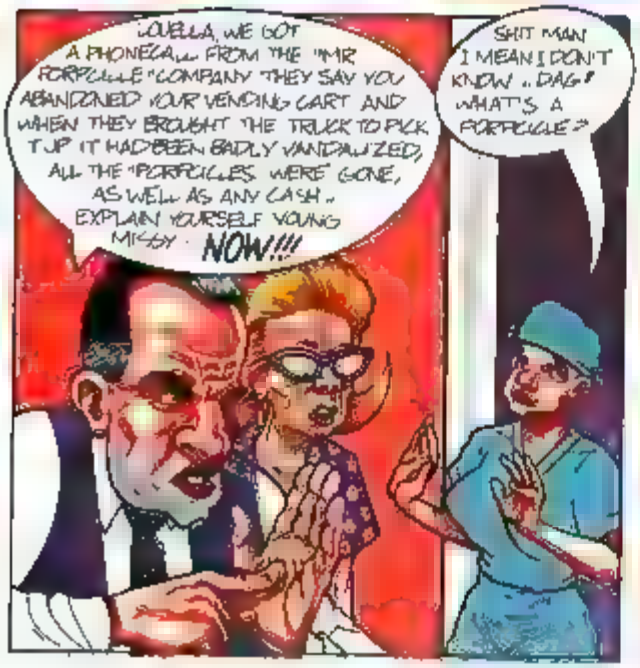
I DID THIS PROCEDURE (ILLEGALLY...) BY LETTING YOU GO, IN EFFECT I AM FREEING DR FLOUNDER'S PHYSICAL MURDERER, I AM GOING TO CONTRIVE A STORY DEPICTING HIS MURDER AT THE HANDS OF YOUR FORMER BODY IN TANDEM WITH YOUR LATE FRIEND. DO YOU FOLLOW ME SO FAR?
UH ... YEAH ... SO FAR.
GOOD BY DOING THIS, I CONCOCT A COVER STORY TO PROTECT YOU IN YOUR NEW IDENTITY, AND IN TURN, TO PROTECT ME FOR MY INVOLVEMENT WITH YOU. YOU MUST NEVER CONTACT ME AFTER YOU LEAVE HERE OFFICIALLY, NONE OF THIS EVER HAPPENED. YOU UNDERSTAND? IF THE TRUTH OF THIS GOT OUT I COULD BE TERMINATED FROM MY POSITION HERE, DECERTIFIED, EVEN JAILED!
OKAY
THESE ARE YOUR BELONGINGS ... YOUR, THAT IS HER CLOTHING, WAS BADLY DAMAGED, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO WEAR HOSPITAL SCRUBS. I SUGGEST YOU PURCHASE A HAT, TOO. I HAD TO DEPILATE YOUR HEAD IN PRE-OP GET DRESSED, THEN I'LL ESCORT YOU OUT THE BACK EXIT...
'KAY
WELL, DOC, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
NO YOU CAN'T, AND YOU NEVER WILL. DON'T FORGET THAT! THIS NEVER HAPPENED
YEAH ... I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME
GOOD
... BYE!
YEH BYE!
SO WHO AM I?
LOUELLA LABONGO? OUCH, WHAT A NAME ... WELL I DON'T CARE ... SO NOW I LIVE IN QUEENS COOL BY ME. GOT KEYS, CASH, A NEW LEASE ON LIFE ... QUEENS, HERE I COME!
New York City Department of Health
LICENSED FOOD VENDOR
01 3753
LOUELLA LABONGO
NAME
206 FIRST St
QUEENS
FOREST HILLS...
WELL ALRIGHT!

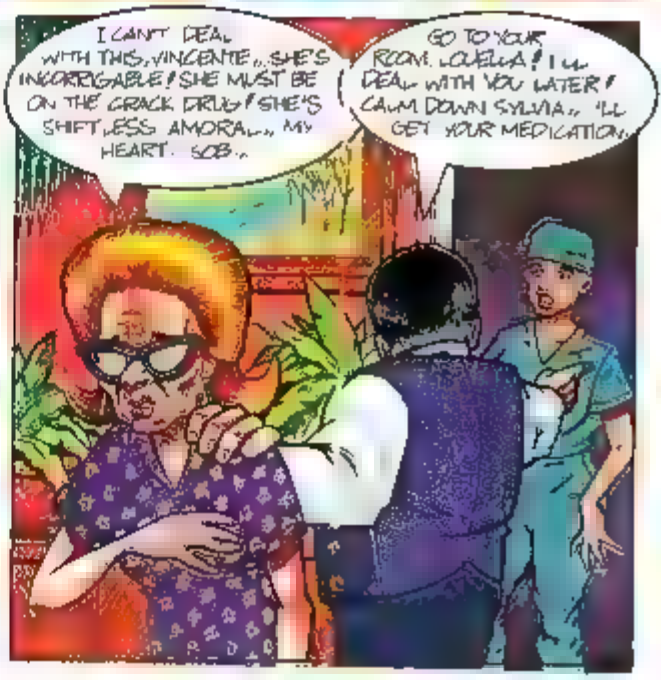
SHIT BOY-ARDEE! THIS IS QUITE THE LUXURY SPREAD!

I THINK I'M GONNA DIG THIS NEW HOUSING ARRANGE MENT!

LOUELLA!!! HAUL YOUR SORRY "TUKHIS IN HERE, YOUNG LADY!!
YI!


JU...YO, U-LAWED? OMIGOD!!! GAH! VINCENTE, GET IN HERE AND SEE OUR DAUGHTER! I'M AT MY WIT'S END! WHAT THE HELL IS THE MATTER WITH YOU, LOUELLA? YOU LOOK LIKE AN ESCAPED MENTAL PATIENT!
I I
SH-T! PARENTS


LOUELLA, WE GOT A PHONE CALL FROM THE "MR PORPICLE" COMPANY THEY SAY YOU ABANDONED YOUR VENDING CART AND WHEN THEY BROUGHT THE TRUCK TO PICK IT UP IT HAD BEEN BADLY VANDALIZED, ALL THE "PORPICLES WERE GONE, AS WELL AS ANY CASH.. EXPLAIN YOURSELF YOUNG MISSY NOW!!!
SHIT MAN I MEAN I DON'T KNOW.. DAG! WHAT'S A PORPICLE?


I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS, VINCENTE.. SHE'S INCORRIGABLE! SHE MUST BE ON THE CRACK DRUG! SHE'S SHIFTLESS AMORAL.. MY HEART. SOB..
GO TO YOUR ROOM, LOUELLA! I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER! CALM DOWN SYLVIA.. I'LL GET YOUR MEDICATION.

SOB! WHY CAN'T SHE BE GOOD LIKE HER BROTHER WAS? HE WAS GOOOOD! SOB!
OH MAN
THERE, THERE, SYLV
GUESS THIS 'S MY ROOM... JEEZUS...
Lovella's Lunker
Fascists Stay Out!
WELL, MY OH MY...
THIS IS SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT..
THIS ROOM WOULDN'T BE HALF BAD IF JUST THREW OUT SOME OF THIS POLITICAL MUMBO JUMBO BUSINESS.
THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT THOUGH... I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHERE THIS LOVELLA GIRL WAS COMING FROM. HMM... THE HICKMAN ASSOCIATION? THOSE SONS OF BITCHES! I... I...
NUCLEAR FACILITY RESPONSIBLE FOR SOIL TOXICITY
OOOOH.. PHF!
CLUNK!

I COULD GO FOR A DRINK...
LICKM
EXIT
UH BARTENDER GEMME HAVE A DRINK!
WE DON'T SERVE YOUR KIND IN HERE! GO FUCK YOUR SELF, BUDDY-BOY! HA HA HA!
OKAY..I CAN DO THAT!
SEE? I CAN GO FUCK MYSELF.. MY NEW SELF...
BUT WUTHER.
WHAT ABOUT ME, THER? WHAT ABOUT MEEE?
AAAAAAAH!!
MOSES, SHIT.. MOSES! SNIF
BOO HOO HOO! SOB! SHIT..LOOKIT MME.. SNIF M CRYIN LIKE A GRL.. IKE A IKE.. A..
GIRL!?

SLAM!
LORD, I GOTTA TAKE ALL THIS N...A GIRL... THAT'S WHAT I AM NOW... A WHITE, TEENAGE GIRL
I'M NOT BLACK... I'M NOT MIDDLE-AGED, I'M NOT MALE... NOT ANY MORE I'M NOT, LEMME LOOK AT MYSELF... I'VE GOT TO ABSORB ALL THIS... OH MY HEAD... IT'S POUNDING I FEEL HOT ALL OVER... SHIT!
THIS S TOO WEIRD TITS... I'VE GOT TITS.
AND I DON'T HAVE A JOHNSON NO MORE! OH SHIT, OH SHIT! I FORGOT ABOUT THAT! SHEE-YIT!
OH GOD ALMIGHTY, THE CHURCH WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS!
AND WHAT THE HELL IS MY SEXUAL PREFERENCE S'POSED TO BE? HOLY MOLY I'M A WOMAN NOW, BUT DAMNED IF I'M LETTIN' ANY MAN LAY A HAND ON ME!!! BUT THAT'S NATURE... BUT THIS IS UNNATURAL!!!
AND SPEAKING OF UNNATURAL... I STILL LOVE WOMEN... BUT I AM ONE! I DON'T WANNA BE A LESB... LESB... ONE OF THEM! OH SHIT! OH FUCKING SHIT!
WHAT AM I WORRYING FOR? WHAT MAN IS GONNA WANT A BALD HEADED GIRL LIKE THIS? I AIN'T EVEN MY OWN CUP O' TEA BUT WHAT AM I GONNA DO? NO MORE DICK. NO MORE PISSING STANDING UP... WOW...

LOUELLA'S BEEN IN THE BATHROOM, TALKING CRAZY TO HERSELF FORTY MINUTES NOW... MAYBE SHE IS RIGHT ABOUT LOU... I THINK SHE IS ON DRUGS... OR MAYBE SHE'S JUST PLAIN NUTS
COUP! OH, UH, HI, SWEETNUTS... I MEAN SWEETNESS... HEH, HEH... DADDY NEEDS TO USE THE COMMODE, OKAY?
YEAH... UH, SURE "POP"
WHAT A WEIRDO.
MEANWHILE...
CHRIST ALL FUKKIN' MIGHTY! TWELVE YEARS ON DA FORCE I NEVER SEEN NUTHIN LIKE DIS!!!
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU LET ME PERFORM THE AUTOPSY ON THE MUTANTS. I FEEL I WOULD BE MORE QUALIFIED THAN THE CITY CORONER NO OFFENSE.
I DUNNO, WHATTAYA THINK, GENE? S'ALRIGHT?
YEAH... SURE... I WASN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO CARVING THAT TURKEY, ANYWAY DOING DR FLOUNDER'S POST MORTEM WILL BE A BREEZE... MAYBE GET ME SOME GOOD PRESS... BUT THAT THING? NO WAY...
JEEPS... ANYONE GOT A BROMO? COUP...
SPEAKING OF THE PRESS, I DON'T THINK TWOULD BE WISE TO ALLOW ANY PICTURES OF THE MUTANT CORPSE TO BECOME PUBLIC... I DON'T WANT A MEDIA CIRCUS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC... YOU NEED ROOM TO WORK. WE'LL KEEP THEM BLOODTHIRSTY NEWS VULTURES AT BAY...
NEXT MORNING:
WHAT A WORLD...
DAILY SCU
BRAIN DOC FOUND DEAD
HEY! LEMME SEE THAT!!! UH, PLEASE...
THAT'S BETTER. YOU MUST BE HAPPY... I'VE HEARD YOU DENEGRATING THAT DR FLOUNDER GUY'S GOOD WORK!
Sports
DAILY &
BRAIN

DR. EMIL FLOUNDER MURDERED BY SIAMESE MUTANTS

by Winchell Ma
bossy

Innovator of the human brain transplant, Dr. Emil Flounder, was found murdered, assassination style, yesterday morning in his posh office at The Institute of Cranio-Brainoo Youth Restorative Surgery in uptown Manhattan. His body, discovered by fellow surgeon Dr. Eldon Pinke, was sprawled across the floor, one bullet through his head, and one through his chest.

The alleged assassins, a pair of conjoined twins, were also found dead on the scene, of apparent wounds inflicted on them by Dr. Flounder, no doubt in self defense. The restraint (picture unavailable at press time) relationship with Dr. Flounder is as yet unknown.

Dr. Flounder rose to fame in the late 1980's, after having perfected the technique of transplanting live human brains from one body to another. Though widely criticized because of the procedures exclusivity to the very wealthy, Dr. Flounder became well respected in the field of medicine.

(continued page 34)

LOUELLA, YOU'RE SHAKING ALL OVER! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SORRY SOMEONE BEAT YOU TO HIM? HEH HEH ...HMM?

UH ...I GOTTA GO OUT FOR SOME AIR...

MR. PORPOISE

YOU SEE THAT I'M RIGHT, VINCENTE? SEE? SHE IS A MENTAL CASE ...SHE NEEDS HELP. I SAW HER HEAD UNDER THE HAT ... BALD! SHE PROBABLY JOINED ONE OF THOSE SICK SATANIC CULTS!

SLAM!

ALRIGHT ... MY MIND'S MADE UP. I'M CALLING BELLEVUE ABOUT LOUELLA ...

... SIGH ...

HELLO? I'M CALLING ABOUT OUR DAUGHTER ...MY NAME? VINCENTE LABONGO. WELL, THE THING IS ...

BLAH BLAH ...

THANK GOD.

OH MAN, THIS IS THE WORST ... WELL, NOT COMPARED TO THE WAY THINGS WERE, BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT LIKE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. HELL, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK HOW IT WOULD BE. STILL, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE ... I'VE GOT SOME MEAN CRAMPS, THOUGH ... AACK!

AND THERE SITS OUR CRAZY DAUGHTER, TALKING TO HERSELF WHERE ALL THE NEIGHBORS CAN SEE ...

DON'T FRET, SYLV ... THE AMBULANCE IS ON ITS WAY ...

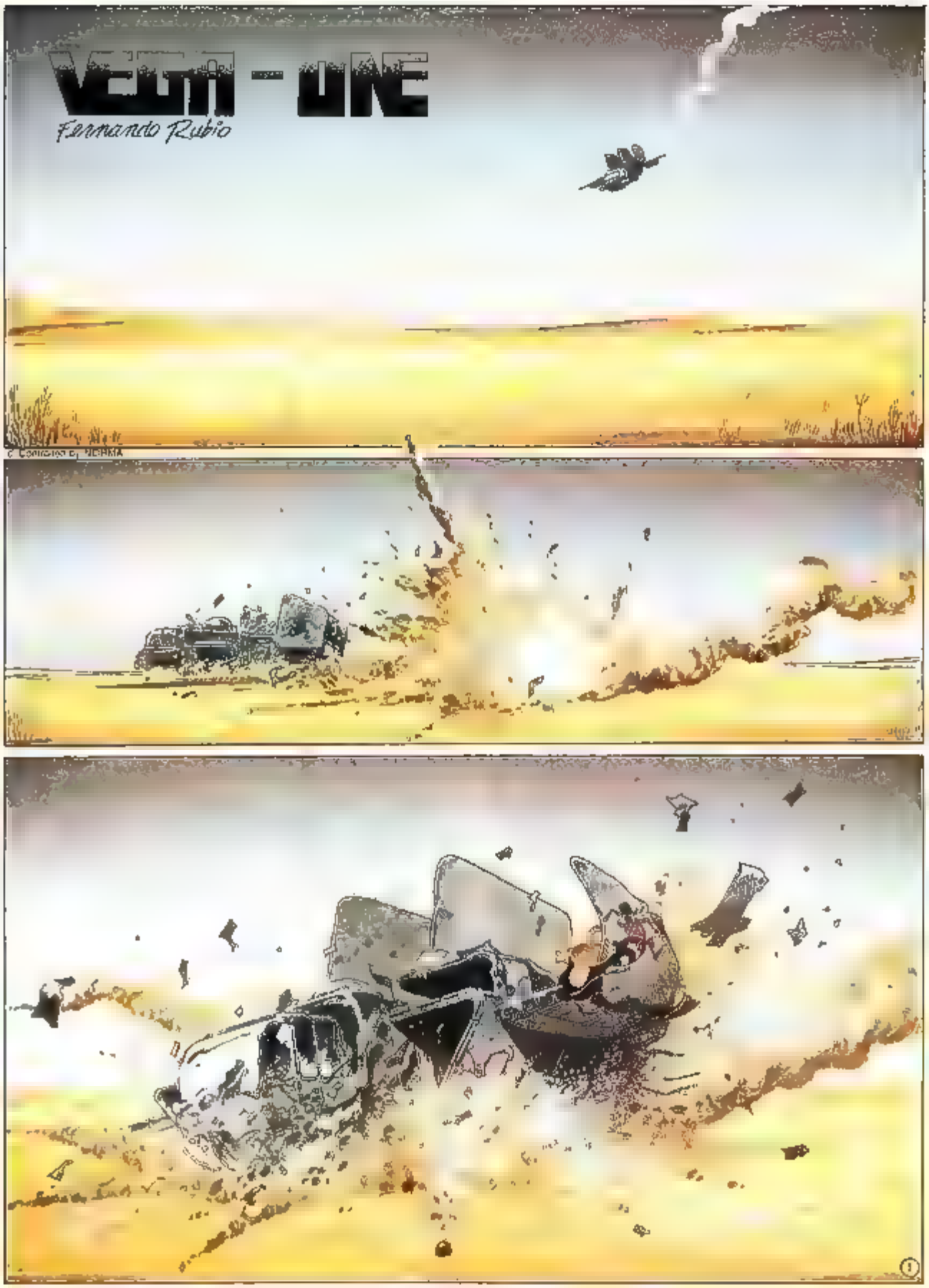
SUCH A HEARTBREAK. I'M GOING UPSTAIRS. I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE THEM TAKE HER

OH MORTY, YOU ALWAYS WERE THE GOOD ONE...
MAYBE THERE'S HOPE FOR YOUR LITTLE SISTER MORTY
THANK GOD YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE THIS BOO HOO HOO!
HEY LOUELLA, HOW'S IT GO... UM, LOUELLA, YOU SEEM TO BE SPOTTING KINDA NOTICEABLY... LIKE YOU KNOW?
HUH?
OH SHIT, OH SHIT! MY WOUNDS HAVE OPENED! OH MY GOD, I'M BLEEDIN'!
LOU, LOU, BE MELLOW, GIRL! IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR FIRST PERIOD!!
PERIOD?!? OH GOD, I FORGOT ABOUT ALL THAT. OH MAN... I'M A FUCKIN' MESS!
UH... YOU WANNA GO INSIDE AND DO, UM, SOMETHING FOR THAT... LOU?
OH NO! HERE COMES LOUELLA WITH ONE OF HER WEIRD FRIENDS... HOW AWKWARD

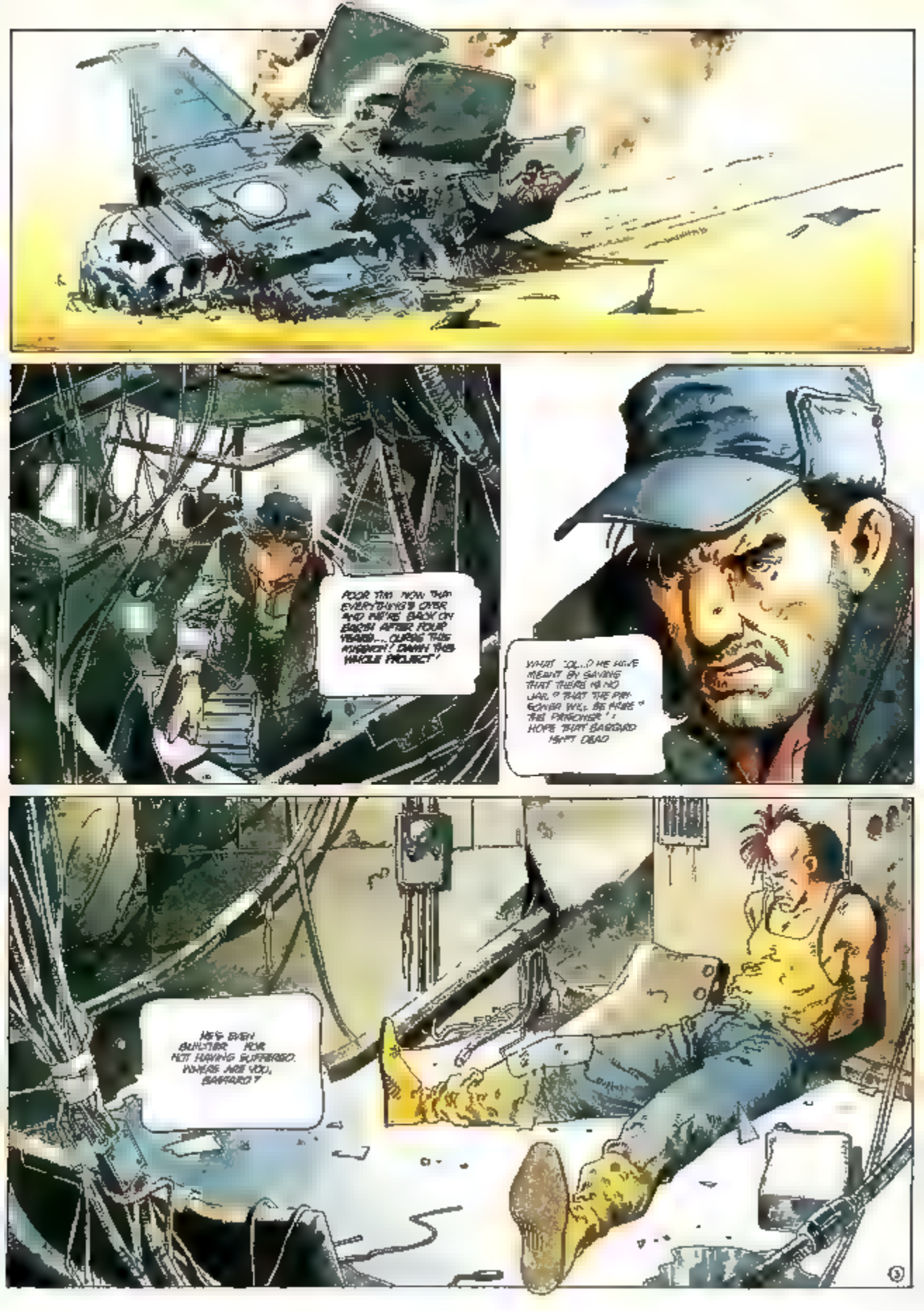
THANKS FOR BRINGING LOUELLA IN, ANNETTE, DEAR.. SHE'S A LITTLE DISORIENTED TODAY.. WELL, THANKS ALOT. BYE!!!
SLAM!
SMALL WONDER LOUELLA'S SO FUCKED UP WITH PARENTS LIKE THAT ..GUY, WHAT TOTAL WEIRDOS! SHIT
LOUELLA I...
I'LL CATCH YOU ON THE REBOUND, "POP" I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM, MAN
BLAT!
YES?
YOU CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE?
OH YES SHE'S RIGHT UPSTAIRS..
HOLY MOLY!
OH MORTY SOB! YOU WERE THE GOOD ONE!
NICE AND EASY, LADY! NICE AND EASY, WE WON'T HURT YOU!
SNIF! W-WHAT ARE Y-YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME VINCENTE! VINCENTE!
WHAT'S ALL THAT COMMOTION?

WHAT THE ?
VINCENTE! VINCENTE!
THAT DOES IT ! I'M OUTTA HERE !
IF I CAN JUST GET OUT THIS WINDOW AND DOWN THIS ROOF WITHOUT KILLING MYSELF I'LL BE ONE HAPPY GUY
HEY HEY ! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ? SHE'S NOT THE ONE I CALLED ABOUT !
OH NO? SHE LOOKED PRETTY IN NEED OF OUR SERVICES HUGGIN' THAT STIFF UP THERE, PAL !
I SUPPOSE IT'S A CRIME FOR A MOTHER TO LOVE HER ONLY SON?!?
IT IS WHEN THAT SON IS A CORPSE! MAYBE YOU OUGHTA COME WITH US TOO PAL !
NO... I ... THAT'S ... LOUELLA!
SOB!
LOUELLA, LOUELLA!!
JUST GET 'N THE AMBULETTE PAL ..
WELL, WHATTAYA KNOW..

AND AWAY THEY GO...
OKAY, NOW THINK WHAT DO I NEED? CASH, CLOTHES... I'LL POKE AROUND AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND...
I'LL GET OUT OF THESE THINGS, THEN CHECK THE HOUSE...
I GOTTA GET A HANDLE ON THIS "LADY'S TIME" BIT, THO
AND SO...
THANK GOODNESS FOR UNDERWEAR DRAWERS STUFFED WITH GREENBACKS. WELL, I GOT CASH, CLOTHES AND... AND
...AND
...AND...
...AND WHAT'S MY HURRY? THEY AIN'T GONNA BE BACK FOR A WHILE... YEAH
AAAH, PEACE AT LAST...

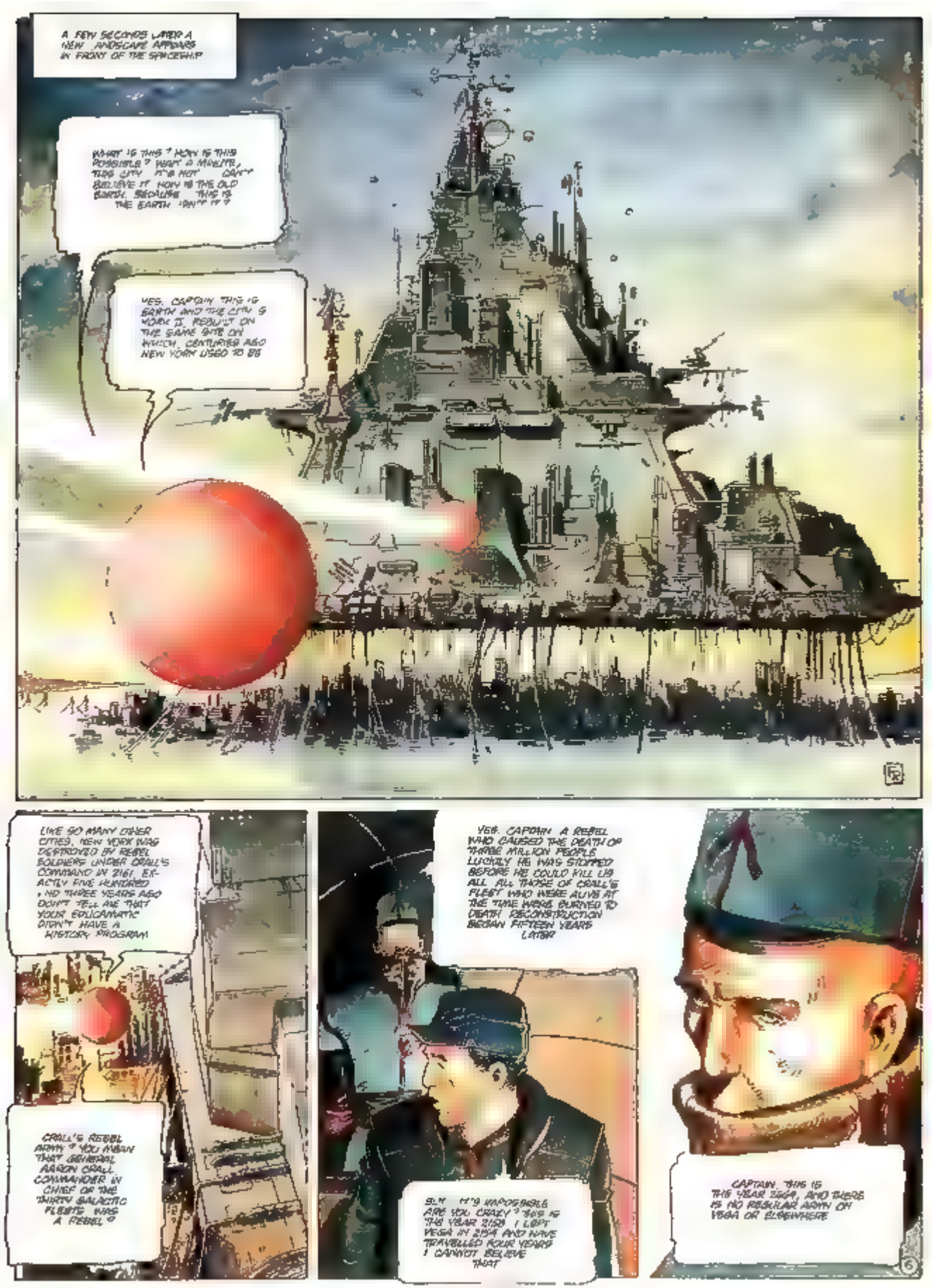

VEGA - ONE
Fernando Rubio

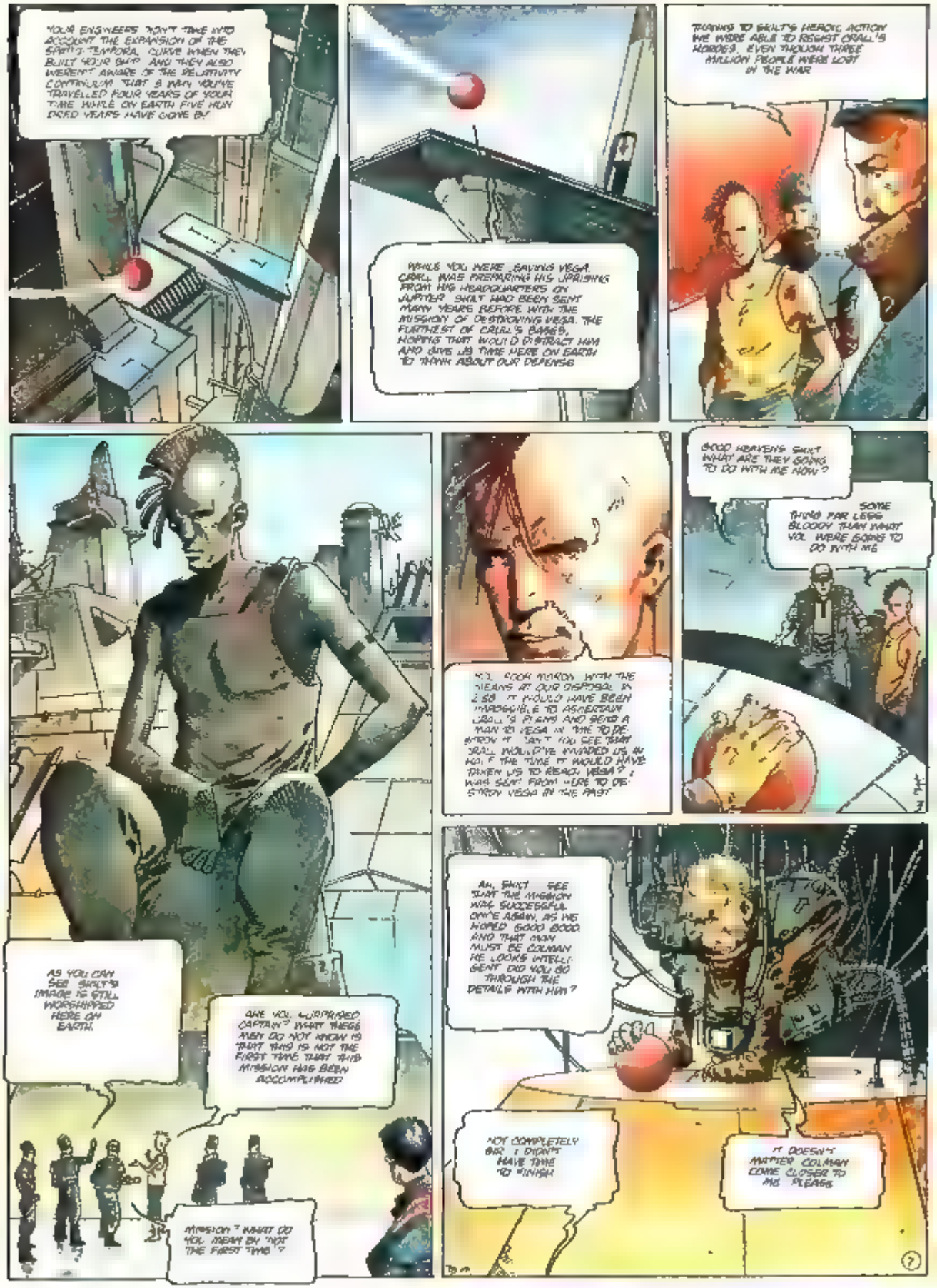
FOUR YEARS OF TRAVELING ONLY TO END UP LIKE THIS. TIM ! MUCH OF OUR COORDINATES WERE HARD TIM ARE YOU WOUNDED ?
CAPTAIN SOMETHING MUST WRONG OUR SHIP DIDN'T SLOW DOWN TO LANDING SPEED ... TIM ARMED THAT
WE'VE GOTTEN HERE MUCH TOO SOON OF WAY. BE MUCH TOO LATE THIS MIGHT PART OF THE MISSION WE BROUGHT HERE.
THE SHIP WITHOUT THIS SHIP WE COULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT OUR PROBES BACK TO EARTH IN TIME. THIS WE WILL HAVE BEEN MUCH APPLI HAD WE NEED THE IF THOSE OLD LUD BE IF WE HADN'T PUSHED THE ENGINE TO THE UTMOST
OUR PROBES WILL GO FORE
3


POOR TIM. NOW THAT EVERYTHING'S OVER AND WE'RE BACK ON EARTH AFTER FOUR YEARS... CURSE THIS MISSION! DAMN THIS VEHICLE PROJECT!
WHAT "OL...? HE HAVE MEANT BY SAYING THAT THERE IS NO JAIL? THAT THE PRI-SONER WILL BE FREE? THE PRISONER'S HOPE THAT BARBARA HAPT DEAD
HE'S EVEN BLUSTERIN' FOR NOT HAVING SUFFERED. WHERE ARE YOU, BARBARA?
3

HA HERE YOU ARE! YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GO FREE TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T DIE LIKE THE YOUR TRIP IS OVER AND THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER FOR YOU AS FAR AS CAN SEE
COME ON, YOU SON OF A BITCH YOUR TIME HAS COME
5:09. 1609 CAPTAIN COLMAN CALLING THE LUMEN MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED THE VEGA ONE MURDERER HAS BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH OUR COORDINATES ARE 9-60 P-128 REPEAT 9-60, P-128 5096 MY CO-PILOT TIMOTHY WALTER IS DEAD REPEAT DEAD! SHIT NO ONE IS ANSWERING THE RADIO MUST'VE BEEN DAMAGED DURING LANDING
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE SON OF A BITCH I'LL TAKE YOU TO COURT MYSELF EVEN IF HAVE TO DRAG ALL THE WAY THERE
WHAT'S THAT SEE? LOOKS LIKE FLYING BILLIARD BALLS THEY DON'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY NOISE WHAT CAN POSSIBLY BE PROPELLING THEM?
OH THEY'RE HUMAN POLICEMEN I SEE THAT IN FOUR YEARS YOU'VE CHANGED PATROL VEHICLES AND UNIFORMS WELL AM HANDING OVER
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HA, HA WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS, CAPTAIN? THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE US THE OLD WAR LIBLE CAPTAIN COLMAN HAS ABORTED HIS MOST IMPORTANT MISSION HA HA
4

SHUT UP YOU BASTARD! MY NAME IS ALAN COLMAN, CAPTAIN OF THE III REGULAR FLEET ON VEGA! I HAVE A PRISONER HERE BY THE NAME OF JEFFERSON SHILT WHO IS GUILTY OF DESTROYING THE VEGA ONE ORBITAL STATION ALONG WITH ALL ITS INHABITANTS
WE LEFT FOUR YEARS AGO TO TAKE THE PRISONER TO THE INTERGALACTIC COURT. DAMN YOU! I HAVE HERE THE BASTARD WHO REDUCED VEGA TO ASHES. MY CO-PILOT IS DEAD AND I'M MIRACULOUSLY ALIVE AND YOU'RE STILL ASKING ME WHO I AM! I WANT
COLMAN? JEFF SHILT? THE VEGA ONE STATION? DID YOU HEAR ALL THAT? HE SAYS HE'S AN OFFICER STATIONED BY VEGA. THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THESE LUNATICS TO THE CENTRAL COMMAND
JUST A MOMENT ALANGE, THEY'RE NOT SO CRAZY. LOOK AT THAT SHIP! THEY CAME IN WHERE COULD THEY HAVE FOUND AN ANTIQUE LIKE THIS ONE?
ANTIQUE? IT'S A PROTOTYPE OF A FIGHTER THAT'S BEING DEVELOPED ON VEGA. IT'S A WARRIOR I MODEL. THE FASTEST SHIP EVER BUILT. WE USED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME TO TRACE SHILT BACK. YOU IDIOTS! WE'RE ONLY FOUR YEARS LATE, AND WE'VE COVERED 27 LIGHT YEARS IN DISTANCE
SAY, YOU'LL THINK I'M CRAZY, BUT LOOK CLOSELY AT THAT GUY. HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE JEFFERSON SHILT AND THE OTHER ONE, THE ONE IN UNIFORM, DOESN'T HE REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE?
YES. THEY SAW HIM ON OUR EDUCAMATIC TAPE. HIS UNIFORM IS LIKE THE ONE WORN BY THE REBELS UNDER CRALL, MORE OR LESS FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!
YOU'RE RIGHT. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? IT REALLY COULD BE THE GREAT JEFFERSON SHILT WHO DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE DURING HIS VOYAGE TO EARTH FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO! QUICK BY'S TAKE THEM TO CENTRAL COMMAND
CAPTAIN COLMAN, PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO ACCOMPANY US ALONG WITH YOUR PRISONER
9


A FEW SECONDS LATER A NEW LANDSCAPE APPEARS IN FRONT OF THE SPACESHIP
WHAT IS THIS ? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE ? WHAT A MIRAGE ! THIS CITY IT'S HOT CAN'T BELIEVE IT HOW IS THE OLD EARTH BECAUSE THIS IS THE EARTH ISN'T IT ?
YES, CAPTAIN THIS IS EARTH AND THE CITY S NEW YORK II, REBUILT ON THE SAME SITE ON WHICH CENTURIES AGO NEW YORK USED TO BE
LIKE SO MANY OTHER CITIES, NEW YORK WAS DESTROYED BY REBEL SOLDIERS UNDER CRALL'S COMMAND IN 2161, EXACTLY FIVE HUNDRED AND THREE YEARS AGO DON'T TELL ME THAT YOUR EDUCAMATIC DIDN'T HAVE A HISTORY PROGRAM
CRALL'S REBEL ARMY ? YOU MEAN THAT GENERAL AARON CRALL COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE THIRTY GALACTIC FLEETS WAS A REBEL ?
YES, CAPTAIN. A REBEL WHO CAUSED THE DEATH OF THREE MILLION PEOPLE LUCKILY HE WAS STOPPED BEFORE HE COULD KILL US ALL. ALL THOSE OF CRALL'S FLEET WHO WERE ALIVE AT THE TIME WERE BURIED TO DEATH RECONSTRUCTION BEGAN FIFTEEN YEARS LATER
S.H. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ARE YOU CRAZY ? THIS IS THE YEAR 2159 I LEFT VEGA IN 2154 AND HAVE TRAVELLED FOUR YEARS I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT
CAPTAIN, THIS IS THE YEAR 3564, AND THERE IS NO REBELLION ARMY ON VEGA OR ELSEWHERE
6


YOUR ENGINEERS DIDN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXPANSION OF THE SPATIO-TEMPORAL CURVE WHEN THEY BUILT YOUR SHIP AND THEY ALSO WEREN'T AWARE OF THE RELATIVITY CONTINUUM THAT 8 MAN YOU'VE TRAVELLED FOUR YEARS OF YOUR TIME WHILE ON EARTH FIVE HUNDRED YEARS HAVE GONE BY!
WHILE YOU WERE SAVING VEGA, CRALL WAS PREPARING HIS UPRISING FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS ON JUPITER. SHALT HAD BEEN SENT MANY YEARS BEFORE WITH THE MISSION OF DESTROYING VEGA. THE FURTHEST OF CRALL'S BASES, HOPING THAT WOULD DISTRACT HIM AND GIVE US TIME HERE ON EARTH TO THINK ABOUT OUR DEFENSE
THANKS TO SHALT'S HEROIC ACTION WE WERE ABLE TO RESIST CRALL'S HORDES. EVEN THOUGH THREE MILLION PEOPLE WERE LOST IN THE WAR
AS YOU CAN SEE SHALT'S IMAGE IS STILL WORSHIPPED HERE ON EARTH.
ARE YOU SURPRISED CAPTAIN? WHAT THESE MEN DO NOT KNOW IS THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS MISSION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
MISSION ? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NOT THE FIRST TIME" ?
SO, FROM NOW ON WITH THE MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL IN 2 509 IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN CRALL'S PLANS AND SEND A MAN TO VEGA IN TIME TO DESTROY IT. DON'T YOU SEE THAT CRALL WOULD'VE INVADED US BY NOW IF THE TIME IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN US TO REACH VEGA ? I WAS SENT FROM HERE TO DESTROY VEGA IN THE PAST
GOOD HEAVENS SHIT WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH ME NOW ?
SOME THING FAR LESS BLOODY THAN WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO WITH ME
AH, SHIT SEE THAT THE MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL ONCE AGAIN, AS WE HOPED GOOD GOOD. AND THAT MAN MUST BE COLMAN HE LOOKS INTELLIGENT DID YOU GO THROUGH THE DETAILS WITH HIM ?
NOT COMPLETELY BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FINISH
IT DOESN'T MATTER COLMAN COME CLOSER TO ME PLEASE
7

GODDAMN IT ! RISKED MY LIFE ONLY TO GO FROM BAD TO WORSE. I HOPE MY END WILL BE A QUICK ONE
NO ONE IS GOING TO KILL YOU, COLMAN. PLEASE COME CLOSER
AND NOW GET READY, YOU ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE YOUR SENTENCE.
VERY WELL, COLMAN YOU ARE READY TO START YOUR MISSION. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, YOU WILL BE TAKEN BACK TO VEGA IV THE YEAR 2183 YOU WILL JOIN YOUR PREDECESSORS. DESTROY THE BASE AND COME BACK HERE WITH YOUR SUBSTITUTE ANY QUESTIONS ?
NO, SIR
THE END

HEAVY METAL

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- ☐ **JULY 1984**/John Cleese interviewed, and Jeronaton
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- ☐ **OCTOBER 1984**/John Sayles interviewed, Caza, and Bilal
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- ☐ **DECEMBER 1984**/Federico Fellini interviewed, Milo Manara, and Boris Vallejo
- ☐ **JANUARY 1985**/Liberatore, Berthet's "Marlowskitz," and Daniel Torres
- ☐ **FEBRUARY 1985**/Jack Davis interviewed Russell Mulcahy, and Torres
- ☐ **MARCH 1985**/Moreno's "Rebel," Bilal & Christin, and Schuiten
- ☐ **APRIL 1985**/Eighth anniversary issue! Moreno, Corben, and Swarte
- ☐ **MAY 1985**/Liberatore cover, Corben, and Manara
- ☐ **JUNE 1985**/Charles Burns, Massimo Ghini, and Herik berto
- ☐ **JULY 1985**/George Miller interviewed, Olivia, and Sesar
- ☐ **AUGUST 1985**/Frank Frazetta interviewed, Juan Gimenez, and Torres
- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 1985**/Hildebrandt cover, "Rock Opera," Yves Chaland
- ☐ **OCTOBER 1985**/Olivia, Brian Aldiss, and Jodorowsky & Cadelo
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- ☐ **APRIL 1981**/Juan Gimenez, Corben, and Harry North
- ☐ **MAY 1981**/William S. Burroughs on immorality
- ☐ **JUNE 1981**/Corben speaks in a candid interview
- ☐ **NOVEMBER 1981**/Jeronaton, Jeff Jones, Leo & Diane Dillon
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- ☐ **JANUARY 1982**/Chaykin, Simonson, and Jim Steranko
- ☐ **FEBRUARY 1982**/Moebius's John Difool and Jeff Jones
- ☐ **MARCH 1982**/Special rock issue
- ☐ **APRIL 1982**/Fifth anniversary issue featuring J. G. Ballard
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- ☐ **JULY 1982**/Marcele and Lacombe's "Life at the Circus"
- ☐ **AUGUST 1982**/Berni Wrightson's "Freak Show"
- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 1982**/Bilal, and Rod Kierkegaard, Jr.
- ☐ **OCTOBER 1982** Special horror issue featuring Edgar Allan Poe
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- ☐ **AUGUST 1977**/Ed David's "World Apart," and Corben
- ☐ **SEPTEMBER 1977**/Roger Zelazny and Corben
- ☐ **OCTOBER 1977**/Theodore Sturgeon, and Mœbius
- ☐ **NOVEMBER 1977**/Harlan Ellison, and Moebius
- ☐ **DECEMBER 1977**/Druillet's "Yragael" and Howard Chaykin's "Fortune's Fool"
- ☐ **JANUARY 1978**/Roger Zelazny, and Gray Morrow
- ☐ **FEBRUARY 1978**/Forest's "Barbarella," and Mœbius
- ☐ **MARCH 1978**/Gray Morrow's "Orion," and Corben's "Den"
- ☐ **APRIL 1978**/First anniversary issue
- ☐ **MAY 1978**/Philippe Druillet, and Alex Nino
- ☐ **JUNE 1978**/Corben's "Arabian Nights," and Sturgeon's *More Than Human*
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- ☐ **FALL 1986**/Bilal, Gimenez, Ortiz, Kierkegaard, and others.
- ☐ **WINTER 1987**/Greg Hildebrandt cover. Daniel Torres, and Miguel Angel Prado
- ☐ **SPRING 1987** Juan Gimenez's apocalyptic "Carbage." Daniel Torres, and others
- ☐ **SUMMER 1987**/10th anniversary issue! Moebius, John Findley's "Tex Arcana," Jeff Jones, Angus McKie et al!
- ☐ **FALL 1987**/Sexy Olivia cover. Segrelles, Rick Geary, Moebius, Torres, and more.
- ☐ **WINTER 1988**/"Ranxerox"'s Liberatore. Daniel Torres, Prado, and Drew Friedman. Cover by Olivia.
- ☐ **FALL 1988** Olivia on the cover and Crepax's "Valentina inside!"
- ☐ **WINTER 1989**/Sesar's "Shanghai Express Affair," Segura and Ortiz's "Hombre," and "Dieter Lumpen"
- ☐ **MARCH 1989**/Juan Gimenez's "Leo Rex," Prado, Herikberto et al.
- ☐ **MAY 1989**/The sexy women of the planet Zara, Prado's "Manuel Montano," Daniel Torres, Peter Kuper, and Olivia!!!
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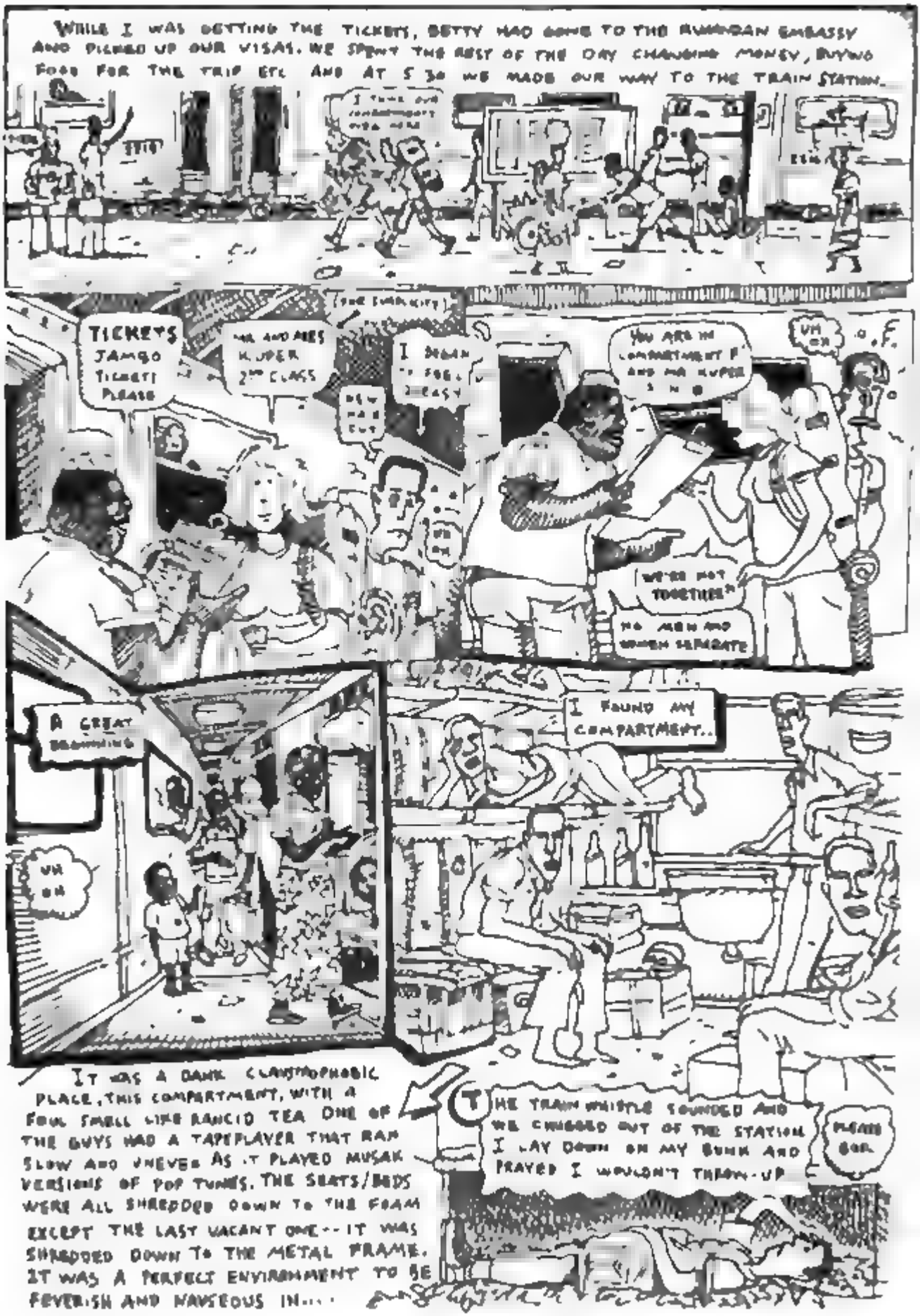
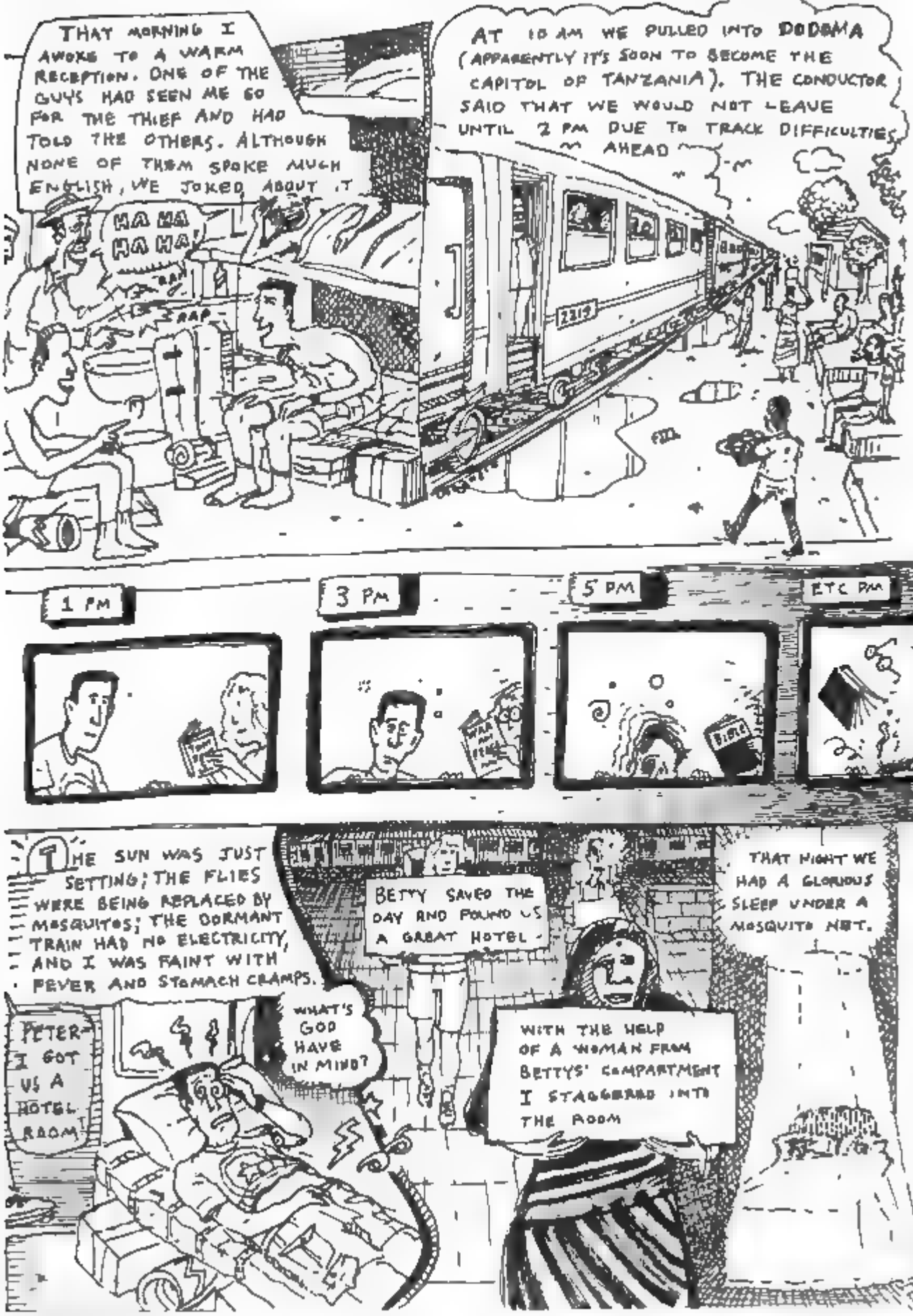
GORILLAS

BETTY AND I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS LEG OF OUR TRIP FOR MONTHS - THE IDEA OF VISITING THE MOUNTAIN GORILLAS IN ONE OF THEIR LAST REMAINING DOMAINS WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE.

OUR VOYAGE BEGAN IN A TRAIN STATION IN DAR ES SALAAM...
TANZANIA
AFRICA
IT WAS A CLASSIC SCENE WAITING TO FIND OUT IF WE WOULD GET TICKETS ON THE TRAIN TO MWANZA FOR THAT NIGHT..
YOU MUST WAIT
EXCUSE ME, IS THE STATION MASTER GOING TO RETURN? HE TOLD ME TO BE HERE AT 8:30 FOR TICKETS - IT IS NOW 11:00 —
JUST AT THE POINT I WAS GOING TO CONSIDER IT A LOST CAUSE..
THE STATION MASTER WILL SEE YOU NOW—
HE WILL?! GREAT
AH, MR KUPER. YOU WERE IN LUCK, THERE WERE TWO TICKETS FOR 1ST CLASS ON THE 6:00 TRAIN..
TRAIN
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIR!

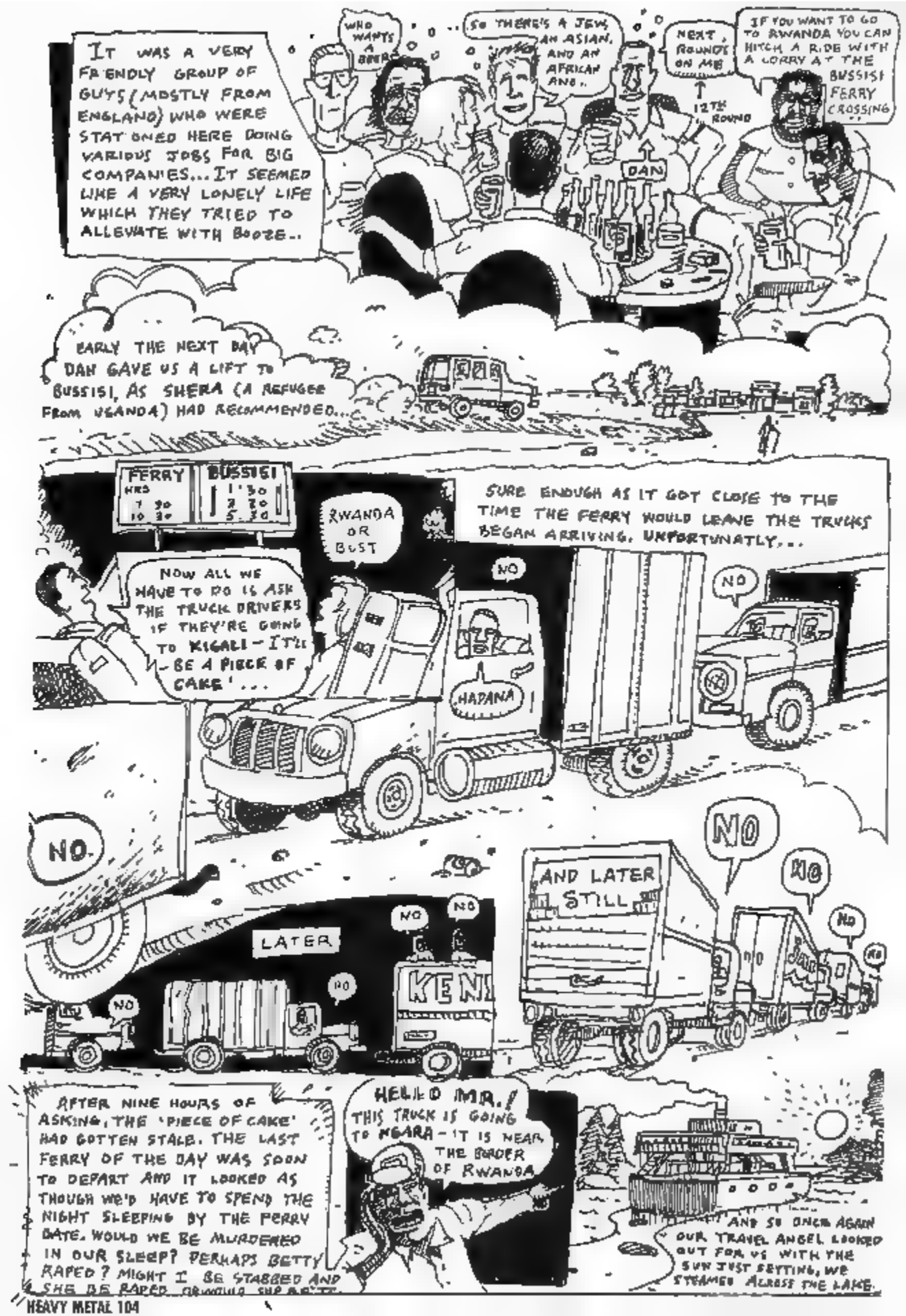

WHILE I WAS GETTING THE TICKETS, BETTY HAD GONE TO THE RWANDAN EMBASSY AND PICKED UP OUR VISAS. WE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY CHANGING MONEY, BUYING FOOD FOR THE TRIP ETC AND AT 5 30 WE MADE OUR WAY TO THE TRAIN STATION.
TICKETS JAMBO TICKET! PLEASE
MR AND MRS KUPER 2ND CLASS
I DREAM OF FREE BEASTY
YOU ARE IN COMPARTMENT F AND MR KUPER 5 N 8
UH OH
"WE'RE NOT TOGETHER"
MEN AND WOMEN SEPARATE
A GREAT
UH OH
I FOUND MY COMPARTMENT..
IT WAS A DANK CLAUSTROPHOBIC PLACE, THIS COMPARTMENT, WITH A FOUL SMELL LIKE RANCID TEA ONE OF THE GUYS HAD A TAPEPLAYER THAT RAN SLOW AND UNEVEN AS IT PLAYED MUSAK VERSIONS OF POP TUNES. THE SEATS/BEDS WERE ALL SHREDDED DOWN TO THE FOAM EXCEPT THE LAST VACANT ONE -- IT WAS SHREDDED DOWN TO THE METAL FRAME. IT WAS A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT TO BE FEVERISH AND NAUSEOUS IN....
THE TRAIN WHISTLE SOUNDED AND WE CHUGGED OUT OF THE STATION I LAY DOWN ON MY BUNK AND PRAYED I WOULDN'T THROW-UP
PLEASE GOD.

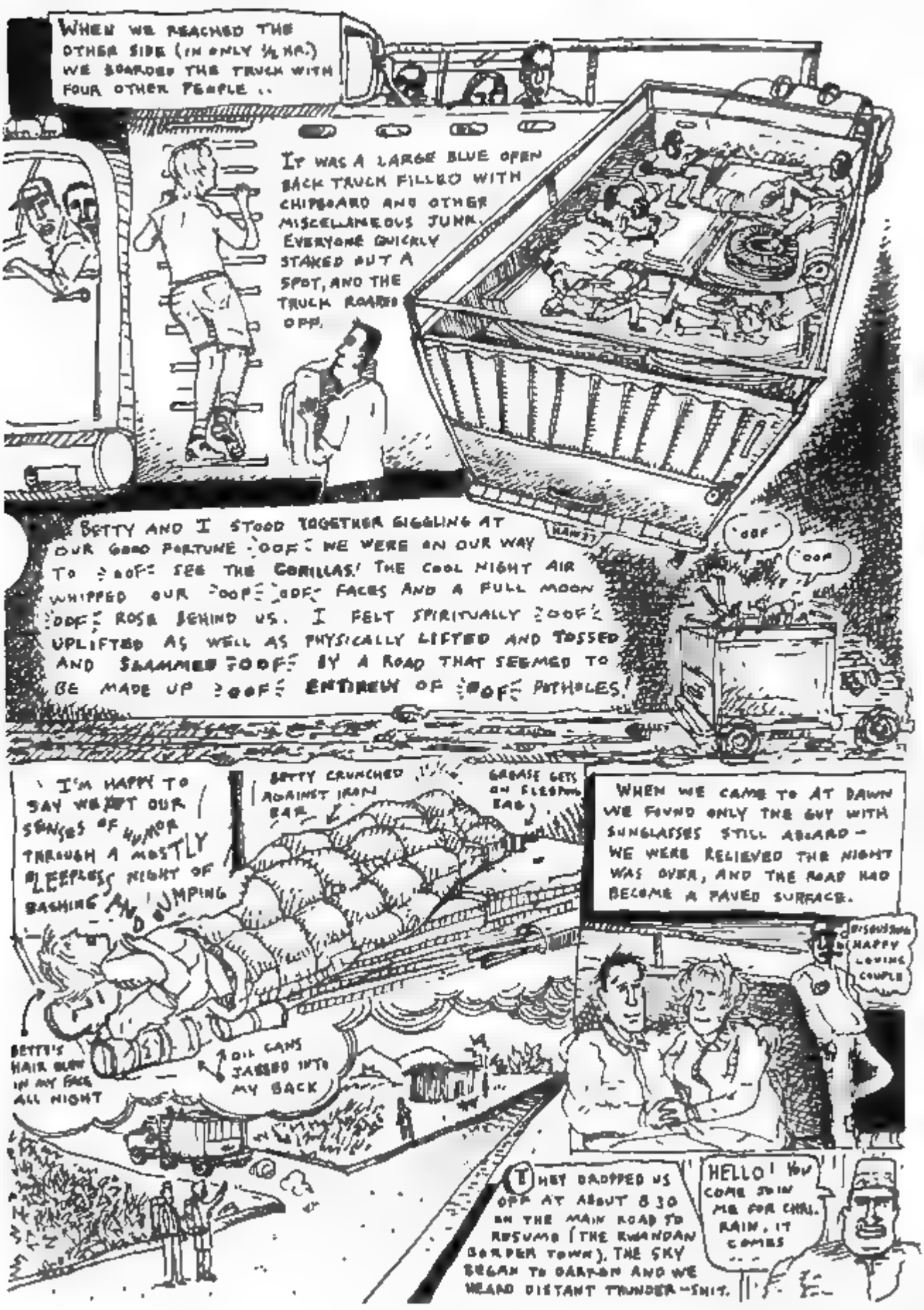
BETTY CAME AND COMFORTED ME, BUT THERE WASN'T MUCH TO BE DONE
YOU POOR BABY, CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?
A NEW STOMACH
I WAS SUDDENLY OVERCOME BY A WAVE OF NAUSEA AND MADE A DASH FOR THE HALL WINDOW ~~~
AND MADE IT IN THE NICK OF TIME!
AHALP
GUY STOOD NEXT TO ME THE WHOLE TIME
IT WAS A VERY DIGNIFIED LOOK..
RUP GAG RULP
"HE IS SUFFERING VERY MUCH?"
MY LOOSENED SHORTS FELL DOWN AROUND MY KNEES
INSULT TO INJURY
HAVING EVACUATED MY SYSTEM I FELT MUCH BETTER...
THE COOL NIGHT AIR FELT SOOTHING, AND AS THE TRAIN RACED ALONG I FELT RELIEVED TO BE TRAVELLING
THAT NIGHT I HAD A RATHER FITFUL SLEEP INTERRUPTED BY A 1 AM TICKET CHECK, AND FEVER DREAMS; STILL I FELT VERY COMFORTED BY THE ROCKING MOTION OF THE TRAIN.
AT AROUND 5AM I AWAKE - SOMEONE HAS LEFT THE LIGHT ON IN OUR COMPARTMENT SUDDENLY A PAIR OF HANDS FOLLOWED BY HALF OF A FACE ~~
APPEARED AT THE WINDOW..
I LEAPT UP, AND HE JUMPED DOWN (BUT NOT BEFORE I RAPPED HIS KNUCKLES)
GET THE FUCK OUT!
THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT TO SAY
THIEF
APPARENTLY THE A HAD MORE LUCK IN 1ST CLASS WHERE A MAN HAD ALL OF HIS LUGGAGE STOLEN.


THAT MORNING I AWOKE TO A WARM RECEPTION. ONE OF THE GUYS HAD SEEN ME GO FOR THE THIEF AND HAD TOLD THE OTHERS. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THEM SPOKE MUCH ENGLISH, WE JOKED ABOUT IT
HA HA HA HA!
AT 10 AM WE PULLED INTO DODOMA (APPARENTLY IT'S SOON TO BECOME THE CAPITOL OF TANZANIA). THE CONDUCTOR SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT LEAVE UNTIL 2 PM DUE TO TRACK DIFFICULTIES AHEAD
1 PM
3 PM
5 PM
ETC PM
THE SUN WAS JUST SETTING; THE FLIES WERE BEING REPLACED BY MOSQUITOS; THE DORMANT TRAIN HAD NO ELECTRICITY, AND I WAS FAINT WITH FEVER AND STOMACH CRAMPS.
PETER- I GOT US A HOTEL ROOM
WHAT'S GOD HAVE IN MIND?
BETTY SAVED THE DAY AND FOUND US A GREAT HOTEL
WITH THE HELP OF A WOMAN FROM BETTYS' COMPARTMENT I STAGGERED INTO THE ROOM
THAT NIGHT WE HAD A GLORIOUS SLEEP UNDER A MOSQUITO NET.

I AWOKE FEELING A LOT BETTER THANKS TO BETTY'S NURSING AND A COUPLE OF LOMOTIL..
INCREDIBLY BAD BREATH
LOMOTIL
MANGO JUICE
SALT
AND AT 8'30 AM THE TRAIN PULLED OUT OF DODOMA.
SEEMS A SHAME TO LEAVE SO SOON
WE WENT A GOOD FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE TRAIN CAME TO A HALT ONCE AGAIN...
AND ONCE AGAIN WE SAT, AND SAT, AN
BETTY'S COMPARTMENT
IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NOT ONCE DURING THE ENTIRE TRAIN TRIP DID ANYONE COMPLAIN ABOUT ANYTHING. EVERYONE REMAINED BOTH RELAXED AND RESIGNED I ADMIRED THEIR CALM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT SEEMED THIS ACCEPTANCE HELPED PERPETUATE A TOTALLY SCREWED UP SYSTEM..
IT WAS 7 30 PM THE TRAIN WAS PITCH BLACK AND FELT VERY CLOSE IN THIS DARKNESS. THE WHISTLE BLEW AND AS THE TRAIN LURCHED THE LIGHTS CAME ON. BETTY AND I BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF!
WHEW.
A FEW MILES DOWN THE TRACK WE SAW WHAT HAD DELAYED THE TRAIN FOR SO LONG
BY MOONLIGHT WE COULD JUST MAKE OUT A ROAD ALONG SIDE THE TRACKS TRUCKS WERE JACKKNIFED AND STUCK IN WATER AND MUD FOR MILES..
THE NEXT DAY THE TERRAIN BEGAN TO CHANGE AS WE NEARED LAKE VICTORIA.
AT 4 00 PM WE AT LONG LAST, REACHED MWANZA

STRANGE AS IT MIGHT SEEM, I WAS A LITTLE SAD THE TRIP WAS OVER..
EXCEPT TO THE EATENT PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER US..
I CAN HELP YOU FIND A HOTEL..
ALTHOUGH BETTY AND I WERE THE ONLY MZUNGUS (WHITE PEOPLE) ON THE ENTIRE TRAIN WE WERE NEVER TREATED AS FOREIGNERS.
THERE WASN'T MUCH TO MWANZA, IT LOOKED A LOT LIKE A MODERN FRONTIER TOWN..
POST
IT DIDN'T MATTER MUCH SINCE WE WERE JUST PASSING THROUGH-- OR SO WE THOUGHT
NO, WE NO LONGER FLY FROM MWANZA TO RWANDA-- THE ONLY FLIGHT LEAVES FROM DAR ES SALAAM
FLY AIR TANZA
DAR ES SALAAM
COMPUTER EVENTUALLY DOWN
YES $.28 TO DAR $200 TO RWANDA.
ON THE WAY OUT OF THE AIR TANZANIA OFFICE WE MET AN ENGLISH EXPATRIATE NAMED PETER WHO THOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE US
YOU CAN PROBABLY GET A LIFT WITH A LORRY.
THEY PASS THROUGH HERE 2 OR 3 TIMES A WEEK
THE BUS SITUATION WAS NO MORE OF A LIFT
THE NEXT BUS IS IN FOUR DAYS, IT TAKES EIGHTEEN HOURS AND DROPS YOU NINE MILES FROM THE RWANDAN BORDER FOR 1000 SHILLINGS EACH
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING TO DO BUT WAIT AT THE HOTEL/RESTAURANT WHERE LORRY DRIVERS OFTEN STOPPED AND HOPE FOR DIVINE INTERVENTION.
MWANZA HOTEL
IT CAME IN THE FORM OF TWO ASIANS, FRIENDS OF PETER.
HELLO! COME FIND US AT THE CLUB- WE'RE MEETING PETER FOR DRINKS!
THE 'CLUB' WAS A YACHT CLUB WHERE MANY EXPATS SPENT WEEKENDS GETTING LOADED..


IT WAS A VERY FRIENDLY GROUP OF GUYS (MOSTLY FROM ENGLAND) WHO WERE STATIONED HERE DOING VARIOUS JOBS FOR BIG COMPANIES... IT SEEMED LIKE A VERY LONELY LIFE WHICH THEY TRIED TO ALLEVIATE WITH BOOZE..
WHO WANTS A BEER
SO THERE'S A JEW, AN ASIAN, AND AN AFRICAN AND..
NEXT ROUND'S ON ME
12TH ROUND
DAN
IF YOU WANT TO GO TO RWANDA YOU CAN HITCH A RIDE WITH A LORRY AT THE BUSSISI FERRY CROSSING
EARLY THE NEXT DAY DAN GAVE US A LIFT TO BUSSISI, AS SHERA (A REFUGEE FROM UGANDA) HAD RECOMMENDED...
FERRY
HRS
7 30
10 30
BUSSISI
1'30
2 30
5 30
RWANDA OR BUST
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ASK THE TRUCK DRIVERS IF THEY'RE GOING TO KIGALI - IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE'...
SURE ENOUGH AS IT GOT CLOSE TO THE TIME THE FERRY WOULD LEAVE THE TRUCKS BEGAN ARRIVING. UNFORTUNATLY...
NO
HAPANA
NO.
LATER
KENI
AND LATER STILL
NO
AFTER NINE HOURS OF ASKING, THE 'PIECE OF CAKE' HAD GOTTEN STALE. THE LAST FERRY OF THE DAY WAS SOON TO DEPART AND IT LOOKED AS THOUGH WE'D HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT SLEEPING BY THE FERRY GATE. WOULD WE BE MURDERED IN OUR SLEEP? PERHAPS BETTY RAPED? MIGHT I BE STABBED AND SHE BE RAPED (KNOWING SHE'D BE
HELLO MR.! THIS TRUCK IS GOING TO NGARA - IT IS NEAR THE BORDER OF RWANDA
AND SO ONCE AGAIN OUR TRAVEL ANGEL LOOKED OUT FOR US WITH THE SUN JUST SETTING, WE STEAMED ACROSS THE LAKE.


WHEN WE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE (IN ONLY ½ HR.) WE BOARDED THE TRUCK WITH FOUR OTHER PEOPLE ..
IT WAS A LARGE BLUE OPEN BACK TRUCK FILLED WITH CHIPBOARD AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS JUNK. EVERYONE QUICKLY STAKED OUT A SPOT, AND THE TRUCK ROARED OFF.
BETTY AND I STOOD TOGETHER GIGGLING AT OUR GOOD FORTUNE :OOF: WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO :OOF: SEE THE GORILLAS! THE COOL NIGHT AIR WHIPPED OUR :OOF: :OOF: FACES AND A FULL MOON :OOF: ROSE BEHIND US. I FELT SPIRITUALLY :OOF: UPLIFTED AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY LIFTED AND TOSSED AND SLAMMED :OOF: BY A ROAD THAT SEEMED TO BE MADE UP :OOF: ENTIRELY OF :OOF: POTHOLES!
"OOF"
"OOF"
I'M HAPPY TO SAY WE LOST OUR SENSES OF HUMOR THROUGH A MOSTLY SLEEPLESS NIGHT OF BASHING AND BUMPING
BETTY CRUNCHED AGAINST IRON BAR
GREASE GETS ON SLEEPING BAG
BETTY'S HAIR BLEW IN MY FACE ALL NIGHT
OIL CANS JABBED INTO MY BACK
WHEN WE CAME TO AT DAWN WE FOUND ONLY THE GUY WITH SUNGLASSES STILL ABOARD — WE WERE RELIEVED THE NIGHT WAS OVER, AND THE ROAD HAD BECOME A PAVED SURFACE.
DISGUSTINGLY HAPPY LOVING COUPLE
THEY DROPPED US OFF AT ABOUT 8:30 ON THE MAIN ROAD TO RUSUMO (THE RWANDAN BORDER TOWN). THE SKY BEGAN TO DARKEN AND WE HEARD DISTANT THUNDER — SHIT.
HELLO! YOU COME JOIN ME FOR CHAI. RAIN, IT COMES ..

THIS GUY APPEARED. IT SEEMED, FROM NOWHERE TAKING US OUT OF THE RAIN INTO A MUD HUT AND GAVE US HOT TEA (CHAI) AND CHAPATI (BREAD). THERE IS A GOD
WE HAD ONLY JUST FINISHED OUR CHAI WHEN WE HEARD THE SOUND OF AN APPROACHING TRUCK. I RAN OUT TO THE ROAD HOPING FOR THE BEST...
AFRICAN WAY OF HITCHING
IT WAS BETTER THAN WE COULD HAVE HOPED – THE TRUCK WAS NOT ONLY HEADED TO KUSUMO, BUT ALL THE WAY TO KIGALI – AND THE DRIVER SPOKE ENGLISH!
GET YOUR BAGS
BE RIGHT BACK
EVEN THOUGH HE ALREADY HAD TWO OTHER PASSENGERS, IDI – OUR DRIVER – SQUEEZED US IN... WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER
AS WE DREW NEAR THE BORDER THE LANDSCAPE BEGAN TO CHANGE FROM THE DUSTY GREY BROWN OF TANZANIA TO THE LUSH MOUNTAINOUS GREEN OF RWANDA. IT LOOKED AS IF EVERY SQUARE INCH WAS CULTIVATED – BANANAS, COFFEE, TEA – THE VIEWS MADE MY MOUTH WATER...
BONJOUR LE KIGALI
AT 4.30 WE PASSED THE SIGN – WE WERE DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY – ACTUALLY WE WERE MOSTLY JUST DELIRIOUS –

IDI WAS SO KIND AS TO TAKE US ALL THE WAY TO THE DOOR OF A HOTEL. WE BID HIM ADIEU AND DRAGGED OURSELVES TO OUR ROOM
ADIEU
WE WERE RATHER STARVING AFTER A FEW DAYS OF LIVING ON BANANAS AND CRACKERS SO OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS A HUNT FOR FOOD
WHAT WE FOUND WAS A PATISSERIE FILLED WITH FOOD IMPORTED FROM EVERY PART OF THE WORLD. AFTER TANZANIA, IT FELT LIKE WE WERE RUSSIANS EXPERIENCING THEIR FIRST AMERICAN GROCERY STORE!
A
B
C
A WE RAN BACK TO OUR ROOM WITH THE GOODS, MADE B HAPPY PIGS OF OURSELVES, C WE COLLAPSED IN EACH OTHERS ARMS
THE NEXT DAY WE LOOKED INTO ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEEING THE GORILLAS..
YES, THERE IS ONE OPENING AVAILABLE, BUT YOU MUST LEAVE IN ONE HOUR WITH OUR DRIVER AND IT WILL COST $800 OTHERWISE IT IS BOOKED UP FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH.
TYPICAL ABERCROMBIE AND KENT (ONE OF THE OVER PRICED TOUR COMPANIES)
FEVRE
TYPICAL CRAP.
800 DOLLARS
WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU.
WE DECIDED TO JUST WING IT AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE PARK OFFICE THE NEXT DAY..
THE MINIBUS DROPPED US IN RUHENGERIE (THE NEAREST TOWN TO THE PARK) AND WE WERE IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDED BY MOTORCYCLES WHOSE DRIVERS OFFERED TO DELIVER US (FOR A PRICE)
TO THE PARK.
THE NEXT THING WE KNEW WE'RE RIPPING ALONG THIS ROCKY DIRT ROAD, HANGING ON FOR DEAR LIFE!

A HALF HOUR LATER WE ARRIVED IN ONE SHAKEN PIECE AT THE PARK RANGER'S OFFICE IN KISINGI ..
UNFORTUNATELY, OUR TIMING WAS A LITTLE OFF, FOR AS WE ENTERED THE OFFICE, A YOUNG SWEDE EMERGED
I JUST GOT TICKETS FOR GROUP 9!
DO YOU KNOW IF THERE ARE MORE LEFT?
I DON'T THINK SO
SHIT
AND SURE ENOUGH
GORILLAS
NON, NO MORE TICKETS FOR ANY GROUPS TRY TOMORROW MORNING
SHIT
SUSA
THE DEAL S THERE ARE FOUR GROUPS OF GORILLAS - #9, #11 #13 AND THE LARGEST GROUP OF GORILLAS... THE SUSA GROUP. ONCE YOU HAVE TICKETS YOU MUST SHOW UP BY 5 PM THE DAY BEFORE YOU GO, AND CHECK IN AGAIN 6 AM THE DAY YOU GO
SO WE HEADED DOWN THE ROAD TO THE NEARBY LODGE TO SEE ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS
SHIT
UM.. AVEZ VOUS UNE CHAMBRE?
NON
THE EXTENT OF MY FRENCH
NO?
NON
ACTUALLY THEY DID HAVE ONE LAST SPOT- SHARING A TENT WITH A COUPLE OF PEOPLE
WE SETTLED DOWN TO A LATE AFTERNOON BEER WITH SOME AMERICANS WHO WERE SET TO SEE THE SUSA GROUP THE NEXT MORNING
LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE RAIN
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD CHECK BACK AT THE OFFICE, THEY OFTEN GET CANCELATIONS
GOOD IDEA
ON THE ROAD TO THE OFFICE, WE RAN INTO THE WOMAN.
OH, I WILL KNOW TONIGHT
THAT NIGHT
NO THEY SAY THERE ARE NO OPENINGS
WHAT THERE MIGHT BE
I'M AFRAID NOT
WE'RE NOT SURE YET
YES' SHE SAW SHE HAS THREE PLACES FOR SUSA!

THAT NIGHT I COULD BARELY SLEEP, LIKE A KID WAITING FOR X-MAS MORNING, I WAS TOO EXCITED
WE ARRIVE AT 5AM, CHECKED IN AT 6AM AND, ALONG WITH A GUIDE, GOT A LIFT TO MOUNTAIN BASE WHERE WE WOULD BEGIN OUR TREK
AT THE BASE THE SIX OF US (THAT IS THE MAXIMUM # OF PEOPLE ALLOWED PER DAY) READIED OURSELVES FOR THE CLIMB
AS WE MADE OUR WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN MY MIND PASSED OVER ALL THAT WE'D DONE TO BRING US TO THIS PLACE, HOW DURING THIS JOURNEY MY FLUCTUATING RELATIONSHIP TO GOD HAD SHIFTED AS WELL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH
WE WOKE UP THROUGH FIELDS OF FLOWERS AND FALLEN LOGS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF UNTIL WE SPOTTED THE NEXT SET OF GUIDES...
WHEN WE REACHED THE TOP WE WERE TOLD TO WAIT; THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION, BUT WE'D BE STOPPED NOW, COULD WE COULD WE?! YES, WE COULD

WHAT'S-HIS NAME WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO TRANSLATE THE BAD NEWS
-- WELL, APPARENTLY THE TICKETS YOU BOUGHT IN KINIGI WERE ALREADY SOLD IN KIGALI TO 3 PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR WAY UP HERE.
THIS IS BULLSHIT!
YOU'RE FUCKING WORKING FOR ME
WE HAD TO WAIT AN EXCRUCIATINGLY LONG HALF HOUR TO SEE IF THEY WOULD COME. AT 9:28 THE ENEMY APPEARED..
THEY TURNED OUT TO BE A GROUP OF VERY WEALTHY ITALIANS FULLY EQUIPT WITH VIDEO CAMERAS, THE PERFECT GORILLA WATCHING OUTFITS, AND A PORTER TO CARRY THEIR CHILLED WINE.
SO THERE WE ALL WERE NINE PEOPLE, BUT ONLY SIX COULD GO... THEY CALLED HEADQUARTERS TO SEE WHAT THEY SHOULD DO. THERE WAS A LONG CRACKLING PAUSE; I HELD MY BREATH.
HE LOOKED AT THEM.
HE LOOKED AT US.
HE LOOKED BACK AT THEM.
-CRACKLE- -YOU DECIDE-
HE LOOKED BACK AT US
HE LOOKED AROUND. THEN,
* ENGLISH SUBTITLE
HE WINKED AT BETTY.
I LET MY BREATH OUT.
AND JUST LIKE THAT; WE WERE WAVED THROUGH, AND THE ITALIANS WERE SENT BACK FROM WHENCE THEY CAME!
AFTER GETTING SOME BASIC INSTRUCTIONS: NO FLASHBULBS, DON'T POINT OR SHOW YOUR TEETH. IF A GORILLA ATTACKS GET BEHIND THE GUIDES AND PRETEND TO EAT LEAVES, AND ABOVE ALL-DON'T RUN— WE PLUNGED INTO THE JUNGLE
TEE HEE
TEE HEE

WE MADE OUR WAY
MOVIE SET FOR 45 MINUTES UNTIL WE
OUR GUIDES, FRANÇOIS AND FRANÇOIS, HACKED OUT A PATH THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH. OUR FEET SPRUNG WITH EVERY STEP ON THE MATTED, VINEY GROUND
GORILLAS ARE
SUDDENLY IN A NEARBY TREE WE SAW A MOVING SHADOW—MY HEART LEAPT

RWANDA
25F
THE END

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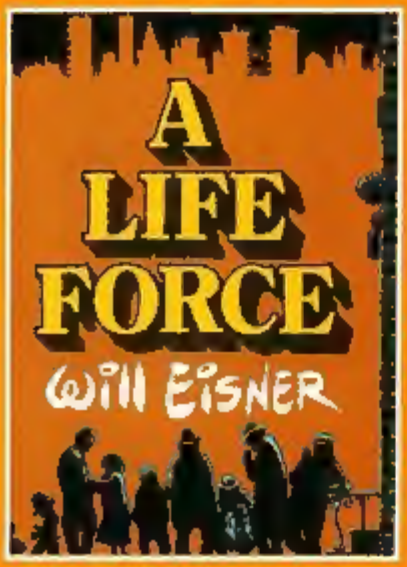

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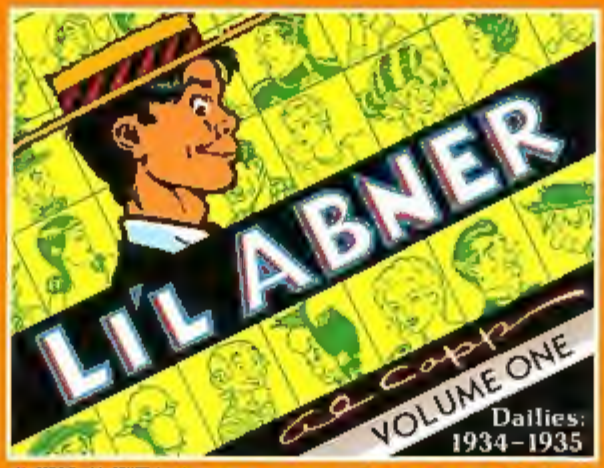

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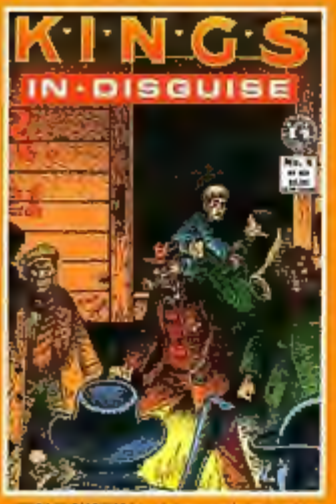

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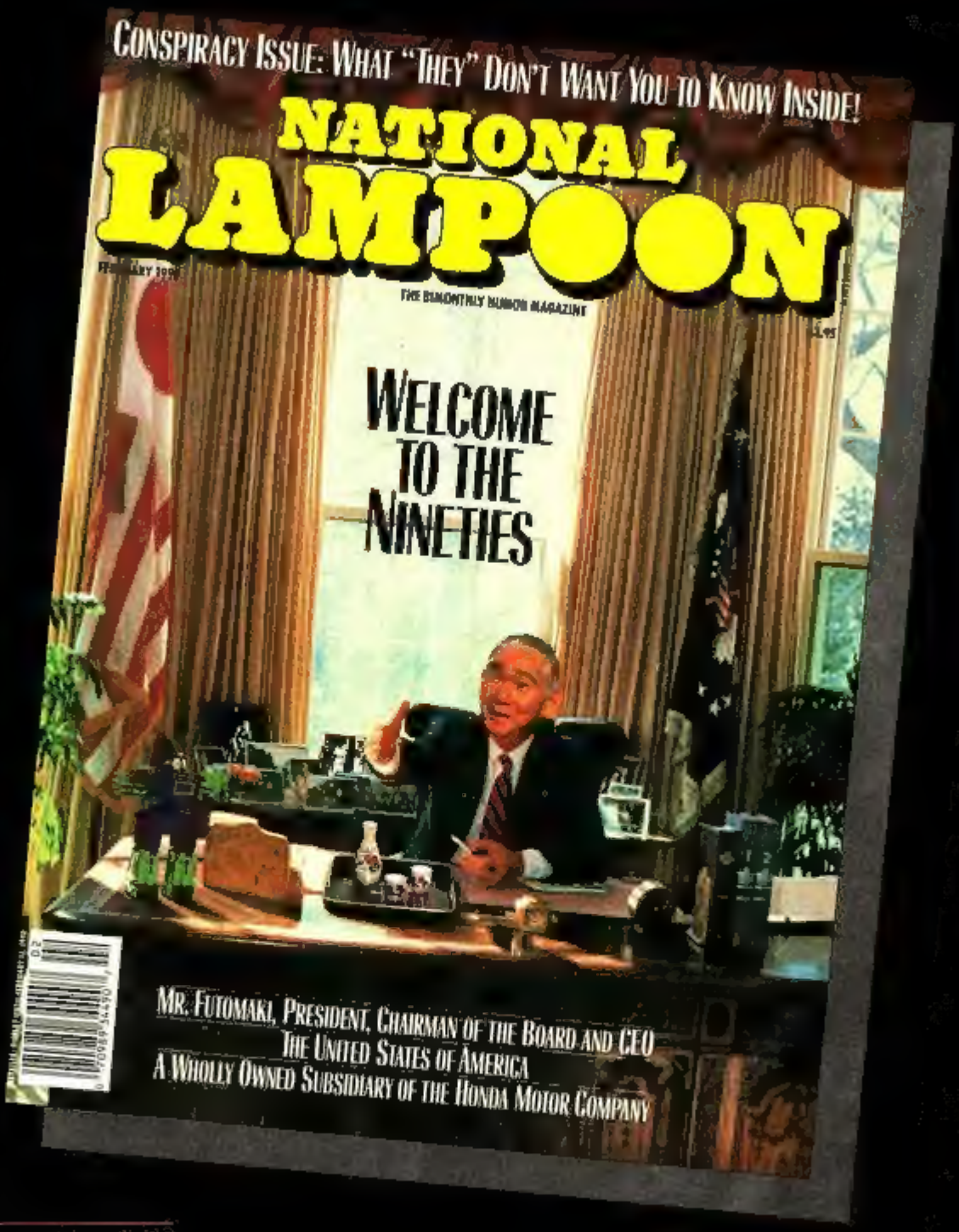
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